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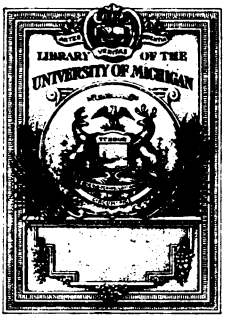

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Brooklyn Institute of Arts & Sciences

Children's Museum News

VOLUME V

OCTOBER 1917 TO MAY 1918

An illustrated periodical devoted to the activities of the Children's Museum in presenting to children various subjects in Natural History, Geography, and United States History.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

1917-1918

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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

OF

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bedford Park, Brooklyn Avenue between Prospect Place and Park Place

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Week days ..... **9.00 A. M. to 5.30 P.M.**

Sundays ..... **2.00 P. M. to 5.30 P. M.**

The Children's Museum was established in 1899. It was the first institution of its kind and with the exception of a similar museum at Boston, Massachusetts, opened in 1912, was for years the only museum in the world maintained expressly for children.

It aims to interest and instruct children by means of exhibits of Natural History Specimens; Geographical and Historical Models; a Library containing 7,500 carefully selected and graded books; illustrated lectures, and personal attention to visitors.

The Museum Publications comprise the Annual Report, The Children's Museum News, Circulars of Information, Classified lists of Specimens to Lend to Schools, lists of Nature Books, and a Catalogue of the History Collection and of the Geography Collection.

To Reach the Museum: From Subway; St. John's Place car to Brooklyn Avenue. From Brooklyn Bridge; Fulton Street or Bergen Street surface cars to Brooklyn Avenue; Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station. From Williamsburgh Bridge; Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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VOLUME V

OCTOBER 1917 TO MAY 1918

ILLUSTRATIONS

(John) Bohanna Comes to the Museum 21
Children Observing History Models 25
Dolls Representing Flatbush Life 17
Dolls of the Elliott Collection 33
Dolls, Swedish, Spanish and Dutch 35
Feathers, Varieties in Color Markings 53
Fruits for Birds 41
Haida Indian Village (Geography Model) 49
Hummer, the Nestling 3
Humming Bird on Nest, (The) Ruby-Throated 1
Insects, How to Collect and Preserve 9
(The) New England Type (History Model) 28
(A) Patroon, His Family and Home (History Model) 27
(George) Ris Identifying the Minerals of His Collection 13
Totem Pole 51

VOLUME V

OCTOBER 1917 TO MAY 1918

INDEX

Albertson, Rev. C. Carroll 4
Allen, Robert 20
(The) American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees 30
Tree Club 15, 23, 30, 55
Junior Branch of 30
American Association of Museums ..... *See* Museums
American Library Association ..... *See* Library
Animal Homes, Room of 45

Digitized by Google

Arbor Day 55
Army and Navy, Radio Departments of the 20
Assembly District, 18th 20
Association
American, of Museums ..... *See* Museums
American, Library ..... *See* Library
Library, of New York State ..... *See* Library
Unity Child Welfare 46
Atherix variegata, Walker 4
Attendance 5
Library ..... *See* Library
Attractions of the History Room, Some ..... *See* History Room
Avery, Mrs. Frank M. 46
Bergen Beach 27, 31
Bergen, First Lieutenant Harold 20
Bergen Homestead 27, 31
Betsy Head Playground, Loan Collection at 23
Bird Day 55
Bird Exhibit 42
Bird Lovers' Club of Brooklyn 5, 22, 31, 42, 45
Bird Study, Club offers prize for 22
Bird Study, Prize for, offered by the Bird Lovers' Club 45
Bird Room 2, 44, 45, 52
Bird Skins, (A) Study Collection of 12
Bird Study, Requirements for the Certificate in 44-45
Birds, Prospect Park 44
Birds' Eggs, a Reserve Collection of 12
Birthdays of Lincoln and Washington 47
Boody, Hon. David A. 54
Bowdoin, W. G.
(The) Totem Pole 50-51
Bowen, Agnes E.
(The) Kings County Historical Society Exhibit 18-19
Some Attractions of the History Room 26-29
Bronx Park 45

Digitized by Google

Brooklyn Aquarium Society 46
Brooklyn Children's Aid Society 47
Brooklyn College 12
Brooklyn Daily Eagle 46
Brooklyn Entomological Society 12
Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences 15, 37
Central (Brooklyn) Museum 5, 42
Children's Museum ..... *See* Children's Museum
Council of 4
Late Director of ..... *See* Hooper Memorial
Libraries of ..... *See* Library
Brooklyn Navy Yard 55
Brush, Dr. George W. 15
Bull, Alfred 12
Bull, Jack 12
Busy Bee Room 10, 12, 22, 45
California 7
Camps Dix, Grant and Upton 20, 23

Certificates
in Bird Study, Requirements for the 44-45
of Credit and Medal Reward Diligent Students 30
of Credit and Medals 14
Chapman, Mrs. Richard M. 46
Chesebro, Mrs. Samuel Z. 46
Change in the Museum Staff, (A) 30
Children's Museum 2, 4, 5, 20, 22, 31, 38, 43, 45, 54
at Brooklyn, New York, the Pioneer Institution 5
Children's Museum, of Boston 4
Children's Museum League 13, 14, 15, 22, 30, 45, 46, 54
Children's Museum News 6, 12, 19, 22, 26, 37, 45
Children's Museum Party 46
Children's Museums, Press Notes on 5
Children's Organizations, Meetings of 30
Civil War 18
Clark, Edwin T. 19

Digitized by Google

Cleaves, Miss 39
(The) Closing of the Museum.....*See* Museum
Club
Bird Lovers' of Brooklyn .....*See* Bird
Brooklyn Woman's 4, 37
Child Study, of the Summerfield Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church 46
Tree.....*See* (The) American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees
Woman's Club House..... 54
Clubs
Long Island Council of Women's..... 5
Women's 54
Women's, Presidents of..... 46
Coffin, Mrs. I. Sherwood 19, 46
Coghill, Robert 6
Cornus florida 42
(A) Correction 22
Corwin, Roy S. 30
Cragin, Mrs. Edwin M. 46
Crooke's Mills 27
Cumming, Mrs. Shannah 4
Curator 7, 37
Curtis, First Lieutenant Austen 20
Curtis, Grenville 20
De Mott, John 20
Dill, Prof. Homer R. 30
Ditmas, Charles Andrew 4
Ditmas, Charles G. 19
Dolls
(The) Elliott Collection of 34-36
Representing Five Stages in Flatbush History..... 18, 19
Donnellon, Mrs. C. E. 6
Draper, Miriam S.,
Fruits Which Birds Like..... 42-43

Digitized by Google

Edsall, District Superintendent James M. 4
(The) Elliott Collection of Dolls 34-36
Elliott, Elenore E. 34
Elliott, Dr. George Frederick 34
Entomological Society, Brooklyn 12
Eucalyptus globulus 7
Euphorbia splendens 7
Fairbairn, Mrs. H. A. 31
Feathers in Detail 52-54
February and March News 37
Field Trips 14
Fire Prevention, Board of 30
First Battalion Field Battery, 302nd 20
Food Administration Campaign 20
France 20
French Navy 29
Friends' School 31
(The) Fruits Which Birds Like 42-43
Gallup, Anna B. 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56
(A) Group of Ruby-Throated Humming birds 2-4
(The) Geographical Models 5
Gore, Sergeant Harold 20
Gramm, Charles William 19
Green, Dr. and Mrs. Henry C. 19
Griffin, Delia I. 4
Hancock, Mrs. James Cole 42
Harris, Joseph 12
Harris, (The) N. W., Public School Extension of Chicago 54
Harrison, Mrs. Joseph Duke 19
Hart, Frank 20
Hartley, Madame Mildred Howson 54
Hill, William 6, 15, 30
Hills, Mrs. John 20, 46
Historical Society, Kings County 4, 18, 26, 31
History Exhibit 6
History Room 12

Digitized by Google

Some Attractions of the 26-29
History Rooms 12, 18
Hooper Memorial, Franklin W. 37-38, 46
Exhibit: to show proposed Memorial Fund Exhibits..... 54
Late Director, Brooklyn Institute..... 37
League Members Sell Stamps to Aid Fund..... 54
Musicale, Fund Reaches $1,600..... 46
Meeting in Interest of Fund..... 54
Woman's Auxiliary to Raise $10,000 Fund..... 37-38
Hoover, Herbert 20
(The) Hummer's Nest, an Insect Nursery..... 4
Hummingbirds, (A) Group of Ruby-Throated..... 2-4
Ilex opaca 42
Insect Study, Prizes for 12
Illinois 20
Iowa, University of 30
Joannes, Jules J. 18
Jones, John Paul 19
Kartov, Russia 5
(The) Kings County Historical Society.....4, 18, 26, 31
(The) Kings County Historical Society Exhibit..... 18-19
Kroesen, Joseph 4, 6, 12, 30
Kubicheck, Wesley F. 30
Kunz-Baker, Mrs. Bertha 54
Lantern Slide Collection Enlarged 6
Lecture Room 30
Lecture Schedules 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56
Lectures, Museum 6, 12
Lee, Mary Day 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 46, 48, 56
Leptidae 4
Library 14, 42, 43, 44, 45
Association, American 15, 55
War Service Committee..... 55
War Service Fund 15, 39
Association, New York State..... 15, 55
Attendance 7, 30, 39, 47, 55

Digitized by Google

Brooklyn Public 55
Notes 7, 15, 23, 31, 39, 47, 55
Science, School of, Pratt Institute..... 7
Libraries of the Brooklyn Institute, the other..... 15
Loan Collections for Schools, Beginning of Fund for 37
Long Island 20
Madagascar 7
Meetings of Children's Organizations..... 30
(The) Mineral Collection, Turquoise for 20
(The) Mineral Room 13
Mineral Study in the Museum 13
Montessori School 39
Morse, Alice 20
Motion Picture Machine, (A) New..... 30

Museum

Antiquarian, Perth, Scotland..... 5
Brooklyn 42
Central 5
Children's .....*See* Children's Museum
Children's, of Boston..... 4
(The) Closing of the 36-37
(Field, Chicago) N. W. Harris Extension..... 54
Party 46
Staff, Change in 30
Wireless Telegraph Station dismantled..... 20

Museums

American Association of 5, 7
Children's, Press Notes on 5
National Parks, Sequoia and General Grant..... 7
Navy Yard, Brooklyn 55
New York Times 55
News, February and March..... 37
One Phase of the Summer's Work 10-11
Osborne, Mrs. Charles E. 46
Park Department 18

Digitized by Google

Pearson, Sergeant Herbert B. 20
Perkins, Mrs. Frank Kendall 46
Perthshire Constitutional 5
Pictures of Old Brooklyn Houses 31
Porter, Mrs. David 46
Porter, Frederick 12
Porter, Richard 12
Power's Cameragraph ..... *See* Motion Picture Machine
Pratt, Mrs. Albert H. 6
Pratt Institute 31
Normal Art Students 31
School of Library Science 7
Press Notes on Children's Museums 5
Prize 12, 22
Contests 6
for Bird Study 22
for Bird Study, Offered by the Bird Lovers' Club 45
Prizes 14
Award of 6
for Insect Study 12
Prospect Park 31, 43, 45
Prospect Park Birds 44
Prunus Pennsylvanica 43
Purdy, Miss 7
Radio Departments of the Army and Navy 20
Red Cross, American 55
Reinhartz, Isidore 12
Ris, George 13, 30, 40
Room of Animal Homes 45
Ruby-Throated Hummingbirds, (A) Group of 2-4
Russia 5
Ruth, Christine 15, 22, 46
One Phase of the Summer's Work 10-11
(The) Elliott Collection of Dolls 34-36

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School
Friends' 31
of Library Science, Pratt Institute 7
Public (Elementary)
85 ..... 7, 15
44, 93, 167 12
Public: High (Secondary)
Commercial 12
Girls, Orchestra 18
Public: Model 12, 47
St. Gregory's 12
Schoonhoven, Mrs. John J. 20, 46
Secretary of the Navy 20
Seitz, Mrs. Don C. 46, 54
Sequoia Wellingtonia gigantea 7
Shell Room 18
Smith, Sergeant Edgar 20
Snipe Flies 4
Some Attractions of the History Room 26-29
Spross, Charles Gilbert 46
Staff, (A) Change in the 30
Strong, Stanley 12, 30
Summerfield Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church
Child Study Club 46
Taylor, Mrs. J. Richard 54
Taxus baccata 42
Thanksgiving 23
Thanksgiving Day Guests 29
Thompson, George Halsey 19
(The) Totem Pole 50-51
Tree Club ..... *See* (The) American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees
Turquoise for the Mineral Collection 20
United States 11
Unity Child Welfare Association ..... *See* Association

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Wakeman, Arthur E. 47
War Zone, (An) Inquiry From..... 5
Weiser, R. G. 23
Whittaker, Mrs. William..... 46
Wissner Piano Company 18
Wireless Telegraph Station dismantled, Museum..... 20
Wodiska, Julius 13, 20
Woman's Auxiliary 5, 6, 31, 46
of the Children's Museum 18, 19, 46, 54
Annual Meeting 37
Friday Afternoon Reception..... 46
Luncheon of 4
Museum Party 4
Voted to Raise Fund of $10,000..... 37
Woman's Club House .....*See* Club
Wood, William 30
Work, One Phase of the Summer's..... 10-11
Yakima, North 43
Yaphank 20, 23
Zabriskie, Mrs. Cornelius 39
Ziegler, Mrs. William H. 46, 54

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 9:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Sundays 2:00 to 5:30 P. M.

VOL. V BROOKLYN, N. Y., OCTOBER 1917 No. 1

Courtesy of the New York State Museum

RUBY-THROATED HUMMING BIRD ON NEST

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A GROUP OF RUBY-THROATED HUMMINGBIRDS

Everyone who has had a flower garden, an apple tree in blossom, or an old-fashioned honey suckle growing on the trellis of his porch, knows what it is to see a Ruby-throated hummingbird dart through the air like a bullet, poise on the wing to sip nectar from an open flower, and then quickly disappear across the nearest lake or meadow,—a "glittering fragment of the rainbow". Now and then a good observer may be fortunate enough to see him alight on a dead twig or telegraph wire and sit for a few minutes sunning himself and preening his feathers. But it is more than probable that the majority of children who know the Museum are not so well acquainted with this little shooting star of our gardens, and for this reason we are very glad that there is now a group of Hummers in the Bird Room, a male, a female, and a young one in the nest.

The male is only 3¼ inches long, but what he lacks in size he makes up in color and beauty of form. His upper plumage is metallic green, his wings and tail are brownish with purplish reflections, and his throat is a beautiful, metallic, ruby red bordered by whitish that extends to the breast. The rest of his underparts are dusky washed with greenish on the sides. The tail is forked. The female has no ruby throat-patch, is bronzy green above, and has a rounded tail, the outer three feathers of which are brownish tipped with white.

The nest is scarcely less beautiful than the birds themselves. It is made of plant down taken from young ferns, fluffy fibres from seed gossamers and other soft, cottony substances bound together with spiders' webs. The whole is so skillfully covered with green and gray lichens that it looks like a small, mossy knot. On a living branch of green foliage one would scarcely notice such a tiny cup, so closely does it resemble its surroundings.

The young bird in the nest is only nine days' old, and at this age he too is partially concealed by the similarity of his colors to those of the objects about him. On the 25th of May one of our Children's Museum boys discovered this nest near Pound Ridge, New York, in a hemlock tree of the deep woods. It was located on a branch hanging about 5 feet above the surface of a brook—hummingbirds generally prefer moist situations where the rate of evaporation is lower than it is in the tall tree tops. The nest contained one egg. On May 26th there were two eggs.

By the 16th of June one bird had evidently just hatched. It was entirely naked and had a tiny knob on one end that looked as if it

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might be the beginning of a bill. More than anything else it resembled a soft, black bug an inch long. The mother was seen once or twice feeding her helpless nestling—a painful process to watch according to one writer. "She whirled and sat on the nest edge. The nestling opened wide its hungry mouth. She spread her tail like a flicker and braced herself against the nest-side, craned her neck, and drew her dagger-like bill straight above the nest. She plunged it down the baby's throat to the hilt and started a series of gestures that seemed fashioned to punc-

THE NESTLING HUMMER
"BRISTLING ALL OVER WITH TINY, BLACK HORNS"

ture him to the toes. It looked like the murder of the infants. But he was not mangled and bloody; he was getting a square meal after the usual hummingbird method of regurgitation". How many such square meals our little hummer enjoyed we do not know, but he must have been well fed, for at the end of nine days he had filled the nest and was bristling all over with tiny, black horns. He was also possessed of a bill growing every day more like his mother's, and he was almost ready to fly. Probably if he hadn't been brought to the Museum, the

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mother bird would have conducted him to some protected spot for practice and training that would fit him to take care of himself.

In the New World there are over 600 different species of hummingbirds, but of all these, the Ruby-throat is the only one that ever ventures into Eastern North America. From May to October between Florida and Labrador, as far west as the Dakotas and Texas it is well known, and throughout New York State even to the peaks of the Adirondacks it is a common summer resident. A. B. G.

THE HUMMER'S NEST AN INSECT NURSERY

Upon close examination of the nest above described, it was noticed that a large cluster of dead flies was sticking to the underside. These were found to be Snipe Flies, *Atherix variegata,* Walker, belonging to the family *Leptidae.* It is known that these flies generally deposit their eggs in large, dense masses and attach them to dry branches overhanging water. Numerous females contribute to the formation of these masses and there remain to die. The newly hatched larvae escape into the water where they undergo development. The flies are noticeable in the picture of the nest containing the young bird, and their empty egg cases and dead larvae can be seen on the nest with the aid of a magnifying glass. Probably the formation of the egg mass on the nest is a mere coincidence since the branch happened to be in a situation favorable to the development of the hatching larvae.

LUNCHEON OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

A luncheon planned in the interest of the Children's Museum was held by the Woman's Auxiliary in the Brooklyn Woman's Club on May 18. One hundred and ten members and guests of honor were present.

The luncheon was followed by an interesting program consisting of speeches by members of the Auxiliary and guests of honor, and a group of songs by Mrs. Shanna Cumming.

Among the speakers were Rev. C. Carroll Albertson, President of the Council of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, Mr. Charles Andrew Ditmas, President of the Kings County Historical Society, District Superintendent James M. Edsall, Master Joseph Kroesen, and Miss Delia I. Griffin, Director of the Children's Museum of Boston.

Miss Griffin gave a brief account of the aims and accomplishments of her museum with special emphasis upon the part the women of Boston have played in its progress and upbuilding. Joseph Kroesen outlined his achievements in natural history study since his first introduction to our Museum two and a half years before.

A large number of the guests present have since become friends of the Museum and members of the Auxiliary.

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THE GEOGRAPHICAL MODELS

A sixteen page pamphlet descriptive of the Geographical Models presented to the Museum by the Long Island Council of Women's Clubs and other Women's Clubs of Brooklyn and friends of the Museum is now available for free distribution and may be had on request. It is illustrated with twelve half-tone cuts, comprising a picture of each model and a map of the World showing the distribution of the primitive races depicted in the models.

The cost of issuing the pamphlet was defrayed by the Model Committee.

PRESS NOTES ON CHILDREN'S MUSEUMS

In an article entitled "Children's Museums" published in the Perthshire Constitutional of July 30, the writer characterizes the institution of children's museums and children's rooms in museums as the most striking feature in the present development of museum management. The article notes that these have been established in London, Manchester, and Glasgow, but that they have been worked out on a much more complete scale in America. It designates the Children's Museum at Brooklyn, New York, as the pioneer institution and pronounces its work an unqualified success. The article after describing the equipment and work of the Children's Museum in great detail goes on to say that a children's museum in Perth is only a matter of time since the Town Council has voted to place a children's room in the Antiquarian Museum which is to be reorganized after the war.

MUSEUMS ASSOCIATION

The Museum was honored by a visit of about forty members of the American Association of Museums on May 24. The visitors arriving in the morning spent the forenoon inspecting various departments of the Museum, making notes and drawings of exhibits which interested them especially, and selecting pamphlets descriptive of the work. At one o'clock luncheon was served by members of the Woman's Auxiliary after which the party was conveyed in automobiles to the Central Museum.

AN INQUIRY FROM THE WAR ZONE

One of our boys who is now an active member of the Bird Lovers' Club of Brooklyn has received a letter from Khartov, Russia, asking what the Bird Lovers' Club is doing for the Conservation of Birds, a movement in which the writer of the letter is greatly interested.

ATTENDANCE

The attendance for July and August was 23,056, a gain of 7,435 over the corresponding period of 1916.

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LANTERN SLIDE COLLECTION ENLARGED

Through the generosity of the Woman's Auxiliary in raising funds for the purpose, many valuable colored lantern slides that were needed to complete our sets have been purchased.

New sets on Evangeline and Her Country, the Days of Miles Standish, Hawaiian Islands, United States Forestry, and American Industries have been added also.

The Museum now possesses valuable illustrative material for lectures on Zoology, Botany, Geology, Geography, Physics, and Industries —but many more sets are required to make our lantern slide equipment complete.

By owning its slides, the Museum is saved the considerable expense of lantern slide hire, and the curators are enabled to utilize the time and energy, formerly consumed in selecting and transporting slides from commercial houses, in preparing exhibits and giving instruction to visitors.

The increasing demands for special lectures and the marked degree of pleasure and profit gained by the children who hear these lectures constitute our basis for a further appeal to generous friends for funds to complete the sets needed.

MUSEUM LECTURES

One object of the Museum lectures is to give information that will help children to become more thoughtful and interested observers. The results in many instances have been striking and satisfactory.

During the months of February and March when historical lectures made constant reference to the historical models, it was noticed that many children visited the history exhibit to confirm the words of the lecturer. As a result of this enlightened observation a number of children chose historical topics based upon the Museum exhibits for school compositions. In several instances investigations inspired by observations in the Museum have extended over a period of several months.

AWARD OF PRIZES

The notice of Prize Contests published in the January News led many children to register for competition. But to complete the tasks undertaken required more than passing enthusiasm. As a consequence only a few children fulfilled all of the requirements. The prizes were awarded on April 30 as follows: To William Hill for Bird and Tree Study, to Robert Coghill for History Study, and to Joseph Kroesen for Mineral Study and the Study of Aquatic Life.

Officers of the societies who gave the prizes, relatives and friends of the children, and a number of invited guests attended the simple presentation exercises at the close of which refreshments were served by Mrs. C. E. Donnellon and Mrs. Albert H. Pratt, hostesses of the day.

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LIBRARY NOTES

Three exotic plants have been growing all summer on a shelf outside the east window of the Library. One of them, *Euphorbia splendens,* is commonly called the "Crown of Thorns" on account of the spines, or thorns, which cover the stalk. This plant is a native of Madagascar, where it blossoms all the year. Another, *Eucalyptus globulus,* is a miniature blue gum tree, about two feet high and has a four-sided stem, except at the base where it is round. The eucalyptus grows in California to the height of three hundred feet. But perhaps, the one which has the greatest charm for visiting children is the little seedling of giant redwood, *Sequoia Wellingtonia gigantea,* with its delicate evergreen foliage. This plant would hardly be recognized as a "California Big Tree", for the sequoia on its native soil sometimes reaches the height of three hundred and fifty feet, with a trunk measuring thirty-five feet in diameter near the ground. It is said to be one of the rarest of all living species of trees and the best representative of a past geologic age. There are fine specimens of giant redwood in the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks.

The Library shared in the welcome given to members of the American Association of Museums on May 24, and gladly supplied pamphlets and printed Lists of Nature Books to the curators who requested them.

There was a large attendance during the month of May, numbering altogether 6,153, and including sixty-nine teachers with their classes. The girls of Miss Purdy's class in Public School Number 85 brought ten or twelve scrap-books, which the children had made in their classroom, and presented them to the Library of the Children's Museum, for the entertainment of the youngest visitors.

The twelfth annual visit of the Pratt Institute School of Library Science occurred on June 8. Twenty enthusiastic members of the Class of 1917 after listening to a brief account of our methods of work inspected the Library and Museum. Light refreshments were served in the office of the Curator.

A boy in the graduating class of Public School Number 167 made daily visits to the Library during the summer, devoting much of his time to the preparation of a Biological Note-book. His purpose was to compile a series of definitions and other scientific data in a form which would be of practical help to him in accurately describing the various forms of animal and plant life to be found in the woods and fields.

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LECTURES

For all Grades: Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.
October 2 How to Use the Museum
9 The Bird Room

Grade 7A: **Physics**
October 16 Gravity: Explained and Illustrated
23 Equilibrium: How Bodies Balance
30 The Pendulum **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **Plant Life** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.
October 3 Plant Seeds: How They Are Scattered
10 Roots: Their Structure and Work
17 The Stem: Its Uses and How It Grows
24 The Uses of Leaves
31 What the Flowers Do **M. D. Lee**

For all Grades: Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.
October 4 Some Interesting Objects in the Museum
Grade 8B: **Magnetism**
October 11 Natural and Artificial Magnets
18 Properties of Magnets
25 Terrestrial Magnetism **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of Europe** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.
October 5 France
12 SPECIAL LECTURE—*See Below.*
19 Italy
26 Russia **M. D. Lee**

How Nature Clothes Her Children
Primary Grades: Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.
October 6 The Clothing of Birds
13 The Coating of Mammals
20 The Covering of Insects
27 Fishes **M. D. Lee**

What Animals Do With Their Feet
Primary Grades: Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.
October 6 The Feet of Invertebrate Animals
13 The Feet of Reptiles and Amphibians
20 The Feet of Birds
27 The Feet of Mammals **A. B. Gallup**

For all Grades: **Special Lecture** 10:30 A. M. and 2:30 P. M.
October 12 The Life and Voyages of Columbus **M. D. Lee**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.
From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.
From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 9:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M. Sundays 2:00 to 5:30 P. M.

VOL. V BROOKLYN, N. Y., NOVEMBER 1917 No. 2

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ONE PHASE OF THE SUMMER'S WORK

If you were a visitor to the Busy Bee Room on an August afternoon last summer, you probably experienced difficulty in elbowing your way through the groups of eager young naturalists congregated there. Some of the boys and girls were gathered about the tables, carefully spreading the wings of butterflies on mounting boards, while their friends stood at their elbows offering suggestions. Others came trooping in with their butterfly nets and with poison jars filled with insects they had just captured in a hunt through the fields. Newcomers to the Museum who were standing by, watching this bustling activity were seized with a desire to have a share in it all and began to inquire how they could earn nets and make collections.

Most of these boys and girls who at the beginning of September had boxes of fine butterflies, moths, and beetles, neatly mounted and labeled, had begun work earlier in the summer with no purpose beyond that of catching and holding in their hands some brightly colored bit of insect life. When they found that there were ways of preserving these things, they began to bring in hordes of cabbage butterflies, swallowtails with broken wings, and monarchs with wings rubbed colorless by the too eager fingers. But a mounted butterfly displays its blemishes too plainly and the children, who were quick to decide that some discrimination was necessary, contented themselves in a short time with nothing less than perfect specimens.

The all-absorbing desire to catch everything that flies was soon modified by a businesslike purpose to take only what was needed. Every one tried to collect insects in pairs, and noticing the difference between similar species in flight, captured only viceroys if he had enough monarchs.

The children soon learned to take pains in the careful mounting of insects. They not only tried to get the wings of their own specimens as straight as possible, but criticized each other in a way that was helpful even if forcibly expressed at times.

Some scientific discrimination has been gained in this quest for insect collections. But there has been an even bigger gain in the appreciation of insects alive. Children who came to the Museum with an ignorant fear of many things have learned that "poison caterpillars" are the harmless larvae of beautiful moths and that the much dreaded "stinging bees" or "darning needles" are beautiful dragon flies. Now they collect all the "poison caterpillars" they can find and are very careful to ascertain the food plant of each kind so that they can supply it with food in the breeding cage.

The children have learned to be on the alert for new things. On a collecting trip, one small boy suddenly shouted, "Oh, look at all the

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ailanthus trees down there! Let's hunt for ailanthus caterpillars!" His bright idea was rewarded by the discovery of dozens of the spiny, blueish-green caterpillars on the underside of the ailanthus leaves.

This same boy found a tiger moth as she was laying her eggs and then kept the eggs, watching them anxiously until they hatched into tiny, fuzzy caterpillars ten days later. He afterwards observed every phase of their growth very attentively to see whether the food they ate and the number of times they molted, conformed to the accounts given in books.

This interest in butterflies and moths spread to all kinds of insects. Collectors bringing in beetles would watch them alive before preparing them for their collections, noticing how they used their antennae and the little claws on their feet. They let katydids pinch their fingers in order to observe the queer lateral motion of the mouth parts. They found the larvae of lady bugs and potato beetles, the empty larval skins of cicadas, and young grasshoppers whose tiny wings were just beginning to appear. From these things they learned that insects have a wingless, larval stage.

But one of the greatest discoveries of all was made one day on a collecting trip, when a cicada-killer wasp was seen flying into her burrow and in a few minutes was seen cautiously poking her head out preparatory to another journey. Soon afterwards she was observed flying home with a captured cicada. After that the habits of insects received more attention than ever.

On such collecting trips, the children became keener observers of everything about them. They discovered new kinds of birds hopping beneath the same bushes on whose flowers they were looking for butterflies, and they noticed the mineral contents of rocks which they were overturning in a search for ground beetles. They were quick to comment upon the unusual fruits, leaves, or bark of trees, and to detect signs of tussock moths or other pests on them.

Most of these boys and girls learned just enough last summer to realize that there is a great, big world for them to explore, and they are already making plans to push their trips of discovery farther than ever next year. C. R.

Several years ago, a bright student was attracted to the exhibit shown in the illustration on the title page. A study of the exhibit inspired him to begin an insect collection. To-day this student is working his way through a university by classifying and arranging the specimens in one of the largest beetle collections in the United States.

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MUSEUM LECTURES

One object of the Museum lectures is to give information that will help children to become more thoughtful and interested observers. The results in many instances have been striking and satisfactory.

During the months of February and March when the historical lectures made constant reference to the historical models, it was noticed that many children visited the History Room to confirm the words of the lecturer. A number of children afterward selected an historical topic based upon the Museum exhibits for school compositions. In several instances investigations inspired by observations have extended over a period of several months.

A STUDY COLLECTION OF BIRD SKINS

The Museum now has a reserve collection of bird skins showing immature, winter, and summer plumages. A study of these skins will enable one to recognize these birds at all times of the year.

There is also a reserve collection of birds' eggs in which some rare species are represented. These show a considerable variation in size and color markings even within a given species. Both collections may be studied by any one interested.

PRIZES FOR INSECT STUDY

In the October News we announced the names of children who won prizes in various branches of study, but we were unable to make a statement about the prize for Insect Study, offered by the Brooklyn Entomological Society, because no one had qualified for it at the time that the other awards were made. The summer season with its abundance of insect life has given children new opportunities for studying living insect forms and preparing labeled collections. Nine of these collections are now on display in the Busy Bee Room. The children who made them are: Joseph Kroesen, 125 Rogers Avenue, Brooklyn Model School; Richard Porter, 1087 Sterling Place, P. S. 93; Frederick Porter, 1087 Sterling Place, P. S. 93; Stanley Strong, 1283 Park Place, P. S. 167; Warren Strong, 1283 Park Place, P. S. 167; Jack Bull, 909 St. John's Place, St. Gregory's School; Alfred Bull, 909 St. John's Place, Brooklyn College; Isidore Reinhartz, 355A Halsey Street, Commercial High School; Joseph Harris, 380 Sumner Avenue, P. S. 44.

The prize for the best work in Insect Study and the best collection was won by Joseph Kroesen, who has the distinction of having merited three of the seven prizes offered on January 1, 1917. Richard Porter received a cash prize for the second best collection.

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MINERAL STUDY IN THE MUSEUM

Visitors who enjoy lingering in front of the case of ornamental stones in the Mineral Room will notice a beautiful specimen of banded carnelian agate recently donated by Mr. Julius Wodiska. They will find there also other brightly colored agates, petrified wood, jasper, carnelian, Labradorite, and numerous crystals that are well worth careful study.

In the picture, George Ris, one of the Children's Museum League members, illustrates what boys frequently do after once studying the ornamental stones. He is examining a mineral from his private collection with a magnifying glass. The other specimens he has placed in trays of home manufacture. Each specimen has been carefully labeled and numbered so that every one will be returned to the com-

GEORGE RIS IDENTIFYING THE MINERALS OF HIS COLLECTION

partment where it belongs no matter how many times it is taken out for study.

The Museum has a large number of labeled specimens in study trays. These can be studied at the Museum or at home. Children are invited to bring in any minerals that they have difficulty in naming.

One member of the League has found his mineral collection of practical help in making the geography lessons in school more interesting. Every time he studies about a state or country, he examines his collection to see what minerals he has from that region, and then takes them to his teacher for use in the class room.

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CERTIFICATES OF CREDIT AND MEDALS

The prizes offered last January induced many children to begin consecutive work at the Museum, but on account of living too far away from the Museum some were unable to finish what they had undertaken within the time limit. For this reason, the children who have become interested in studying a subject thoroughly, have requested us to offer rewards for work that may be done without reference to the length of time required. We are, therefore, putting into effect a plan that is opening the eyes of the boys and girls to a great many new ways in which the Museum can help them.

Opportunity is now given for children to study eight different subjects represented by our collections. What shall be done in each one is outlined in detail on a printed sheet posted in the room where the collection representing it is displayed. The tasks to be completed include accurate observations of Museum objects, as shown by ability to describe them and to draw pictures and diagrams in note books, and an understanding of the labels. The latter may involve two things: the looking up of unfamiliar words in the dictionary and the location of places on maps. Reading in the Library on specified topics; keeping correct lists of references; attending Museum lectures on the subject; making reports of progress at meetings of the Children's Museum League; making reports of field trips, and writing a composition of 500 words on a chosen topic are the other requirements.

A student may begin work at his convenience and spend as much time on a course as he pleases. Completion of one course entitles him to a certificate of credits which will count toward a medal. Each course is given a value in credits that corresponds to the amount of work to be done. A bronze medal will be awarded for 50 credits and a silver medal for 100 credits.

Courses can be chosen in any order according to the preferences of the student. The certificates that count toward a bronze medal will have a bronze border. After the student has earned the bronze medal, his credits begin to count toward a silver medal. Then his certificates will have a silver border.

The courses are as follows:

Subject	Value in Credits
Animal Study	20
Aquarium Study	10
Insect Study	15
Bird Study	15
Mineral Study	10
History	10
Geography	10

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LIBRARY NOTES

Under the leadership of Dr. George W. Brush, the Library of the Children's Museum joined with the other libraries of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences in raising money for the Library War Service Fund of the American Library Association. We were glad by this means to have a small part in the great work of providing for our soldiers and sailors in training camps and cantonments throughout this country and in France, not only books but buildings to house them, and the necessary equipment for modern library service.

During the latter part of the campaign a small box trimmed with American flags was placed on a Library table to receive the voluntary contributions of visiting children. We are indebted to William Hill, President of the Children's Museum League and Secretary of the Tree Club, for inviting the members of these organizations to "drop their pennies in the box". We take pleasure also in acknowledging, among other donations, a small gift "From some little children at Public School No. 85 who are interested in the Library.

During the summer vacation, children visited us in larger numbers than ever before for a corresponding period. Many children who went on collecting trips with Miss Ruth came to the Library for data about butterflies and moths, beetles, wild flowers, and birds. There was the usual demand for designs for aeroplanes, pushmobiles, tents, and wireless outfits; also for poems, recipes for cooking, and plays for parties. Naturally, there has been a continued interest in books relating to American History, especially the Revolution and the Civil War.

With the opening of school, the need of books for preparing compositions and for various other helps in school studies became apparent. Likewise, many boys and girls have been busy copying the Requirements for Certificates in various Museum topics, and getting necessary information towards meeting them.

The Library was represented at the Twenty-Seventh Annual Meeting of the New York Library Association held at Lakewood Farm Inn. Roscoe, New York during the week of September 17 to 22, 1917. The hotel is ideally located on high land in Sullivan County, and affords enchanting views of lakes and woods, fertile valleys, and surrounding mountains.

The weather during the entire week was perfect, and so warm that some of the sessions could be held outdoors on the hotel porch. The meetings were inspiring, the tone of the Conference was broad and sympathetic, and a spirit of good comradeship prevailed, all of which conspired to make a most enjoyable and profitable week.

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LECTURES

Geography of the United States

Grades 7A or 7B: Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.
November 6 SPECIAL LECTURE—*See Below*
13 The New England Coast
20 The Connecticut Valley
27 Central New York and the Erie Canal **Miss Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **The Human Body** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.
November 7 The Frame of the Body
14 The Blood and Its Circulation
21 How We See
28 How We Hear **Miss Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Frictional Electricity** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.
November 1 How Electricity Is Produced by Friction
8 Electric Machines
15 The Leyden Jar and Other Condensers
22 Atmospheric Electricity **Miss Lee**
29 Thanksgiving Day—*No Lecture*

Grades 6A or 6B: **The British Empire** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.
November 2 England
9 Scotland
16 Ireland
23 Australia **Miss Lee**
30 SPECIAL LECTURE—*See Below*

How Some Animals Prepare for the Winter

Primary Grades Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.
November 3 Bears
10 Hares and Foxes
17 Gnawing Animals
24 Frogs and Snakes **Miss Lee**

Primary Grades: **Hints for Nature Students** Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.
November 3 How to Study a Bird
10 How to Study an Insect
17 How to Study a Mollusk
24 How to Study a Fish **Miss Gallup**

For all Grades: **Special Lectures** 10:30 A. M. and 2:30 P. M.
November 6 Early Days in New York **Miss Lee**
30 Early Thanksgiving Feasts **Miss Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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Children's Museum News

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Children's Museum, Bedford Park

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VOL. V. BROOKLYN, N. Y., DECEMBER 1917 No. 3

A GROUP FROM THE COLLECTION OF DOLLS

representing five stages of Flatbush life. The British Soldier is Captain Moncrief. The American is Assemblyman Garretsen. The women are Madam Beekman, Madam Johannes Lott, and Mrs. Evart Hegeman. The boy is Benjamin Polhemus

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THE KINGS COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY EXHIBIT

The Museum was thronged on the evening of November 16th, at a reception held jointly by the Kings County Historical Society and the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum, when an exhibit of historic objects loaned by the Historical Society was put on view. This exhibition will continue for about three months.

Every room was alight and brilliant with flags loaned by the Society and by friends of the Museum. Floral decorations were from the Park Department and included autumn leaves and late blossoms, palms and other potted plants. A musical program was presented by the Girls' High School Orchestra, led by Jules J. Joannes, the piano being loaned by the Wissner Piano Company.

Flags of the historic series were used in decorating the former Shell Room, where the collection is placed. These were the "Pine-tree" flag, the "Rattlesnake" flag with the motto, "Don't Tread on Me;" our first flag, the "Betsy Ross" flag which succeeded it; a banner inscribed "Liberty," and the flag of the City of New York. The room is opposite the Museum History Rooms and contains many objects that relate closely to what is shown in the history models, each object being not only an attractive but also a choice example of its kind. It is of interest to know that the selection from the Society's collection and by individuals from their private collections was made on the basis of "What would especially please the children and increase their knowledge of history"?

Teachers of history will do well to note the great educational value of the exhibit especially when taken in connection with the permanent history exhibit maintained by the Museum. Some of the objects shown relate closely to the history models. The Historical Society exhibit shows a gun of the Civil War with ramrod and bayonet; the epaulets, sash, belt clasp, and buttons of an Infantry officer, and two sewing cases carried all through that war. These cases are large enough to hold more than just the sewing outfit, in fact, one has still in its pocket pieces of hardtack left there from that far away time. These cases might be called the "comfort bags" of that war. There are also objects that relate closely to the home life and dress of early days and to Civil War times, and there is Lowestoft china, which is the kind that appears on the table in the New England Model, and pewter, such as finds place in the corner cupboard of that model.

From the Historical Society was sent a candle mold, a linen wheel, a clock reel, a foot stove, a perforated tin lantern, and twenty-seven charming dolls in historic costume, in many cases copied from garments

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seen in old family portraits. These dolls represent five stages in Flatbush history, from the period of the Indian dwellers through that of the Civil War. A group of them is shown on the front page of this copy of "The Children's Museum News".

There are, beautifully embroidered, a baby dress and caps, collars, a fichu, and two muslin frocks; silk dresses, one a wedding gown of 1849; a bead bag, a "finger purse" of steel beads and silk, a bouquet holder, a sheet made of homespun linen, and a little mahogany "shoe chair," in which a child would like to sit and read by the light of candles in the Sheffield plate candlesticks on the "light stand" nearby. If the candles flared their wicks could be clipped by snuffers conveniently placed on their tray.

Any little girl who sat in that chair would "just love to have" the valentines here shown, which were received by a Flatbush girl years ago. Both girls and boys would enjoy eating porridge, cereal, out of one of the pewter porringers, having meat served from one of the huge, round pewter platters, or soup dipped from the huge tureen. If the meat were put on any of the china plates, however, it would be quickly eaten that the eater might see the historical or landscape picture adorning the plate.

There is a tall pitcher bearing a picture of John Paul Jones. Next to this is a "British Fleet" bowl. There are inkstands of pewter and of china; a pewter urn and communion set, and odd, dainty bits in china, among them old Crown Derby and Majolica figures. An important collection of medals commemorating events in our history fills the table case; a map and pictures show the battle of Long Island; a tiny chair with sofa pillow is made of silk from a dress worn by Queen Victoria, and a doll, dressed in 1872, is costumed as an old woman peddler who carries in her large, flat basket a collection of things a housewife might like to buy.

The exhibitors—in addition to the Historical Society—are Mr. Charles G. Ditmas, its president; Mrs. Joseph Duke Harrison, Mr. Charles William Gramm, Mr. George Halsey Thompson, Mr. Edwin T. Clark, and Dr. and Mrs. Henry C. Greene. The reception was in charge of a committee composed of the officers of the Kings County Historical Society, the presidents of local patriotic societies, and the officers and executive committee of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum. A group of women from the Society, in costume, served refreshments. Guests were received by the president of the Auxiliary, Mrs. I. Sherwood Coffin, and President Ditmas of the Historical Society.

A. E. B.

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WIRELESS

By order of the Secretary of the Navy the Museum Wireless Telegraph Station was dismantled on April 9th. The wireless pole and all the apparatus used in sending and receiving messages were removed.

While boys cannot hope to send or receive messages until after the war is over, the privilege of learning the wireless code and of practicing it on Museum instruments will be extended to beginners as heretofore.

A number of the boys who learned wireless at the Museum are now officers in the Radio Departments of the Army and Navy. The names and ranks of all are not available at present, but the following have communicated with us: Austen Curtis, now in France, is First Lieutenant in the Reserve Signal Corps. He is engaged in very important specialized wireless work. Harold Bergen, is First Lieutenant at Camp Dix. Herbert B. Pearson is Sergeant in the 302nd First Battalion Field Battery at Camp Upton, Long Island; Edgar Smith is a Sergeant at Camp Upton; Harold Gore is a Sergeant in the 311th Field Signal Battery, Camp Grant, Illinois; Grenville Curtis is a First Class Electrician in the Radio Corps of the U. S. Navy, and Frank Hart is a Government employee in Washington serving as Radio Aid in designing wireless apparatus and experimenting for the Navy. John De Mott is with the First Regiment of U. S. Engineers now "Somewhere in France".

FOOD ADMINISTRATION CAMPAIGN

On October 18th, the Children's Museum became for a time the centre of interest for the workers of this section in the great national campaign instituted by Mr. Herbert Hoover. The captains of the 18th Assembly District met in conference with their workers, the leader of the district, Mrs. John J. Schoonhoven, and Mr. Robert Allen from the headquarters in New York City. About thirty women who are actively engaged in this work were present. Among them were Miss Alice Morse and Mrs. John Hills of St. Marks Avenue, and many other neighbors and friends of the Museum. The Children's Museum is always glad to offer its hospitality to patriotic gatherings and to workers in this hour of our country's need.

TURQUOISE FOR THE MINERAL COLLECTION

We are again indebted to Mr. Julius Wodiska for a beautiful, bright specimen of Turquoise in matrix which has been added to the collection of gems.

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"IS MISS RUTH HERE"?

JOHN BOHANNA COMES TO THE MUSEUM FOR HIS FIRST LESSON IN MINERALS

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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM LEAGUE

Motto: Tell others about the Museum.

Pledge: I promise to wear the League badge, to visit the Museum, to interest others in the Museum, and to get new members for the League.

Meetings at the Museum every Monday at 4:00 P. M.

This League now has a membership of 4500 boys and girls scattered throughout our Borough. It is growing rapidly as the large attendance at the weekly meetings shows. This is because the members are eager to work. The weekly program is prepared by different children who furnish reports of things in which the Museum has interested them; of the way the League helps them to improve their school work, and of what they are doing to interest other children in Nature Study through the Museum. The League will keep on growing and more children will hear about the Museum, if you, Reader, will remember the Monday Meetings and tell your friends about them.

PRIZE FOR BIRD STUDY

The Bird Lovers' Club of Brooklyn, to whom we are indebted for giving the prize in Bird Study for the Prize Contests last Spring, has offered a prize of a Field Glass to the boy or girl under fourteen years of age who does the best work in Bird Study at the Children's Museum for the season 1917 and 1918. Anyone who wishes to try for this prize may obtain a statement of requirements by applying to Miss Ruth in the Busy Bee Room. The prize will be awarded on May 1st, 1918.

The Museum on behalf of the Children expresses sincere appreciation of the generosity of the Club. At the same time it takes just pride in the accomplishments of the children who entered the contest. The undoubted evidence that they have gained a store of accurate information, besides a deep and growing interest in the birds, is a source of joy and satisfaction to the members of our staff whose privilege it has been to help these young students in their daily work. It is also the cause for the Club's wishing to offer another prize this season.

A Correction

In the November issue of the Children's Museum News, Vol. V, No. 2, page 14, the subject, Botany ten credits, was omitted from the list of courses for which certificates of credit are offered. This subject should be added to make the total number of credits 100 as stated in the note.

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LIBRARY NOTES

On the sixteenth of October, the librarian visited the Betsy Head Playground, in the Brownsville section of Brooklyn, where the flourishing children's gardens were an important feature. Among the economic plants under cultivation were broom corn, hemp, flax, oats, wheat, peanuts, and thrifty cotton plants containing ripening bolls in different stages of development. It was interesting to note that in the Nature Study Room of the Playground there were displayed boxes containing life histories of insects which had been loaned by the Children's Museum. These were used by the children in studying the relation of insects to the plants of the gardens. Samples of the economic plants were given us and afterwards exhibited in the Library.

To meet the usual demand for poems and plays appropriate to Thanksgiving, and to furnish information about the early celebration of the festival, the customary groups of pictures, accompanied by helpful lists of books, were posted in the Library and adjoining Hall. In addition to these bulletins representing the customs of the Pilgrims were other groups of pictures typical of the Harvest, showing in colors fruits, vegetables, and harvest scenes. Bunches of red crab-apples and ears of corn in the husk added a realistic touch to the bulletins.

Among the recent purchases for young readers are the following books: A Child's Yearbook, The Overall Boys in Switzerland, and Stories the Iroquois Tell Their Children. Some new and attractive Nature books are Miss Keeler's Wayside Flowers of Summer, Weed's Butterflies Worth Knowing, and Pearson's Bird Study Book. The latter was written by the Secretary of the National Association of Audubon Societies to tell beginners something about the economic value of birds and the laws for their protection; also to encourage children to join the Junior Audubon Classes for the purpose of bird study, and to lend their help in making nesting boxes and in feeding winter birds.

A collection of boy's books was presented to the Library by Mr. R. G. Weiser of 173 Bainbridge Street. Among their interesting titles may be mentioned The Minute Boys of Bunker Hill, The Minute Boys of the Mohawk Valley, A Lieutenant under Washington, and the Boy Soldiers of 1812. Some of Mr. Weiser's books were passed on to Camp Upton, Yaphank, for the benefit of soldiers encamped there.

A considerable number of magazines collected by the Tree Club was sent to Library Headquarters for the benefit of soldiers and sailors in government service. Further donations of recent periodicals of interest to soldiers and sailors will be gladly received and forwarded.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Geography of the U. S.** Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

December 4 Pennsylvania and Virginia
11 The Southern States **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **Polar Discoveries** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

December 5 The Arctic Regions
12 The Antarctic Regions **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Electricity** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

December 6 How Cells are Made and Used
13 The Effects of an Electric Current **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **The British Empire** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

December 7 Canada
14 India **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Bird Life** Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

December 1 The Migration of Birds
8 Winter Residents **M. D. Lee**
15 Holiday Lecture—*See Below*

Primary Grades: **Social Animals** Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

December 1 Animal Colonies
8 Flocks and Herds
15 Holiday Lecture—*See Below* **A. B. Gallup**

Special Lecture

For all Grades: 10:30 A. M. and 2:30 P. M.

December 15 A Christmas Story **A. B. Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

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From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 9.00 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.30 P.M.

VOL. V. BROOKLYN, N. Y., JANUARY 1918 No. 4

Big sister, little sister, Eleanor, Paul, and Marjory enjoy type models in the Settlement and Colonial section of the History Room. They would like to play with household objects shown on the shelf below. Miss Ruth tells a good story about that jug-like, old fire bucket used before Brooklyn had a Fire Department

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SOME ATTRACTIONS OF THE HISTORY ROOM

Interest in the permanent historical collection at this Museum has been stimulated by the presence here of the fine loan exhibit from the Kings County Historical Society. This was described in the December number of the Children's Museum News. Teachers have called their pupils' attention to the relationship between objects shown in the loan collection and those found in the permanent exhibit, and especially to the fact that both emphasize the home in history. It has been noticed that children themselves see this connection, for one child, looking about, said, "I'd thought history was mostly all war". The appreciation of the position of the home has broadened their thought of history as a study of life and has made them realize that it is not mainly "something shown at the Museum". The older young folk are learning the value of the study as an aid to forming judgment.

In the "Settlement and Colonial" Section is found the largest amount of material illustrative of the home. Nearly every European nation was represented in the early settlers. Those dominant were selected for type models—the Spanish, French, English, of which there were three subtypes, and the Netherlands. Placed in order of arrival each has additional emphasis in its national flag. The Spanish, who, in 1563, founded the first permanent European settlement, are depicted in a scene in the Southwest, where "Priest and Soldier Plan a New Mission". Standing before the ambulatory of a mission, a brown-gowned Franciscan and a gorgeously costumed soldier talk of a possible mission beyond the mountains while the soldier, with jeweled sword as pencil, sketches the route thither in the dust of the path. The scene of the French Type is laid in this state. Father Jogues, the Jesuit, the first white man to cross Lake George, is brought by a Huron Indian in his canoe to a sheltered cove where he is met by a courier du bois or trader, who comes on snow shoes from wild distances beyond. It is called, "The Jesuit Arrives at the Mission Station". In strong contrast to the arid dryness of the first and the snow covered wastes of the second is the springtime gladness of the third, wherein "The Cavalier Comes to Call". The Cavalier, British type of Virginia and southward, has dismounted from his "gallant steed" and bows, plumed hat held over his heart, to his Beloved Lady, who makes sweeping curtsy to him from the rose embowered porch of her Virginia mansion. The blue of her satin gown

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is repeated in the true-lover's-knot adorning the horse's bridle. Blue lupines edge the distant forest to the right, and opposite stretch the broad fields of a prosperous plantation. The sun dial shows a late afternoon hour.

The Netherlands type is developed in two models, the one represent-

IN THE NETHERLANDS, ABOUT 1640

A PATROON, HIS FAMILY, AND HOME

ing the comfortable home and family life of the rich Patroon or Patron, *see illustration,* and the other the "Dutch Trading Post" on the frontier. The title of the first is "In the New Netherlands, about 1640; a Patroon, His Family, And Home". This is a Brooklyn Study, for the house was modeled from the oldest two Dutch houses in Brooklyn, the Bergen and Schenck homesteads, which may be seen on the road to Bergen Beach; the first mentioned, dating to 1649, on Bergen Island, and the second, supposed to be several years older, at Crooke's Mills. Colors in Dutch dress were almost uniformly gay, so, in tint and richness, the Patroon, his wife, and baby, in their midsummer garden, are one with the Spanish soldier and Cavalier folk. The man is attired in green and purple velvet, the doublet fastened with gold buttons, while "points" or ties ornamented at the ends with metal tags, fasten his stockings at the knee. Points were the usual dress fastenings during the 16th and 17th centuries, a man of fashion like the Patroon sometimes using as many as twenty or thirty pairs. The Dutch lady wears a gown of crimson satin the slashed sleeves of which open over white undersleeves and appear through the open sleeves of her pale blue cloak. Her hair is worn in

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a knot at the back, with short, wavy locks in front and a fringe of curls upon her forehead. The baby, after the fashion of the time, wears rich brocade with sleeves, "body", and apron of fine linen. The slaves are costumed for work. "The Dutch Trading Post" is located at Fort Orange, now Albany. The trader, clothed in deerskin, sits at the door of his log hut, buying bear skins from three Indians, while his peasant wife, his dogs, and pigs look on. In the background are trees with autumn foliage. Family life is exhibited also in the remaining two British groups which contrast because of their indoor setting. In the New England Type the minister comes to call and is entertained with service of "fragrant Bohea" tea and sponge cake in the spacious parlor of one of the dignified square houses, so common in New England. The room is a replica, in miniature, of one in Connecticut. The costume, though rich, is rather quiet in tone. Even quieter is that of the "Quaker" Type group, in which that pleasant festival, a "quilting-bee", is in progress and women are putting finishing touches on a "name-quilt" for a

THE NEW ENGLAND TYPE

THE MINISTER CALLS ON THE FAMILY

bride. By the outer door of the kitchen, in which room the frame is set, stands the man of the house with a great-coated neighbor who brings a basket of apples as his contribution to the feast that will follow the "bee".

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These figures and scenes were chosen for modeling because the ideas embodied seem most typical of the several types. Thought of religion, generally as expressed in creed, was ever present among the emigrants. With the Spanish Conquerers, *conquistadores,* came missionary orders of the Roman Catholic Church, and almost hand in hand with cruelty went the founding of missions for the Indians by missioners who have left records of great kindliness, true piety, and efficient leadership. Knowing the Indians and the forest, the fearless, capable Jesuit and the courier du bois were practically leaders in the great French expeditions to the interior and the south. There was gaiety and gallantry among the Cavaliers not found among the other colonists. The Netherlanders came here for trade, introduced the feudal feature of patroonry, and were generous toward all religions. New Englanders colonized in groups or congregations whose minister was a leader of his people and an important member of town councils. The "Quakers" or "Friends", of whom there were many on Long Island, offered refuge to those of any religious belief and carried righteousness into their relations with the Indians.

The pictures are "The Embarkation of the Pilgrims" by R. W. Weir and by Edward Moran; "The Return of the Mayflower" and "Pilgrims Going to Church" by G. H. Boughton, and a group of views in the Essex Institute at Salem, Massachusetts.

There are many historic objects. A little spinning wheel like that in the "Quaker" model attracts the children. They examine it, speak of the taking up of one bygone industry in the knitting of the day, and sometimes say, "I wonder if we'll be spinning for our soldiers before this war is over?"

A. E. B.

THANKSGIVING DAY GUESTS

"Both arms of the service" were represented at this Muesum on Thanksgiving Day. There was also a group of men from the French Navy, who, under guidance of a petty officer conversant with English, were interested to observe the collections. In most cases the men had been guests of some family at Thanksgiving dinner and were brought to the Museum as a fitting close to the celebration of a patriotic day.

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CERTIFICATES OF CREDIT AND MEDAL REWARD DILIGENT STUDENTS

Work for certificates and medals is progressing busily in the Museum. Six children have already completed the requirements for certificates of credit in various subjects, one of them having earned the fifty credits entitling him to a bronze medal. William Hill has earned certificates in the study of birds, animal classification, geography, and history, which give him 55 credits; Joseph Kroesen has 40 credits for work in mineral study, geography, history, and aquarium study; Stanley Strong's and Warren Strong's certificates in bird study give them each 15 credits, while George Ris and William Wood each have 10 credits for mineral study. These boys are not resting idly on their laurels but are continuing their efforts diligently for new honors. At least ten other children are working seriously, keeping notebooks in which they record careful drawings and notes on what they observe in their study. Each one has the satisfaction of knowing that his conscientious work will eventually receive recognition even though he may not complete it so rapidly or brilliantly as some older or more gifted child.

MEETINGS OF CHILDREN'S ORGANIZATIONS

Children's Museum League. Meetings every Monday at 4:00 P. M. Open to members only. Children are invited to join the League and to take part in its activities.

Tree Club, Junior branch of the American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees. Meetings every Saturday at 11:00 A. M. Visitors are welcome at these meetings. Children are urged to join the Tree Club and help make Brooklyn more beautiful by planting trees.

A NEW MOTION PICTURE MACHINE

We are glad to announce that "the latest and best in motion picture projection machines", Power's Cameragraph No. 6 B, has been received and is now awaiting installation. This machine is said to constitute the most necessary and desirable features in modern up-to-date projection. It is therefore designed to give perfect satisfaction under any and all conditions. A number of changes are now being made in the Lecture Room to meet the requirements of the Board of Fire Prevention, and as soon as these are completed we shall be ready to illustrate the lectures with motion pictures.

CHANGE IN THE MUSEUM STAFF

The position of Assistant Curator, made vacant by the resignation of Mr. Roy S. Corwin in March 1917, has been filled by Mr. Wesley F. Kubichek of Iowa City, Iowa. Mr. Kubichek is a graduate of the University of Iowa where he specialized in natural history and museum technique under the direction of Prof. Homer R. Dill.

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LIBRARY NOTES

In connection with the exhibit loaned to the Children's Museum by the Kings County Historical Society, the Library is now displaying several pictures of old Brooklyn houses. Notable among the homesteads represented are the Schenck, Bergen, Lefferts, and Vanderveer houses. The old Schenck House at Flatlands near Bergen Beach, built in 1656, is a picturesque landmark the interior of which shows some of the ships' timbers used in its construction. Another photograph of historic interest, taken in 1894, portrays the "Old Flatbush Road" at the junction of Vanderbilt Avenue, Plaza Street, and Eastern Parkway.

On the evening of the reception given by the Woman's Auxiliary, representative historical books were placed on the Library tables and greatly enjoyed by a large number of visitors. Among the most attractive were three volumes: "Historic Homesteads of Kings County" and "Brooklyn's Garden" by Charles A. Ditmas, and "Historic Dress in America" by Elizabeth McClellan. Several volumes of the "Godey's Lady's Book", published about the period of the Civil War, contain many fine steel engravings and colored fashion plates which attracted much attention. The last named books are a recent gift from Mrs. H. A. Fairbairn of 249 McDonough Street.

Inquiries by children for books giving information about such subjects as the formation of crystals, the breathing of salamanders and newts, compound eyes of insects, scales of butterflies' wings, and the structure of bryozoa and brachiopods are practical evidence of the serious work in Nature Study which these young people are doing toward meeting the Museum requirements for certificates of credit.

On a recent visit to the Library, a boy in the High School Department of the Friends' School carefully examined the list of one hundred and sixty-seven birds recorded by the Bird Lovers' Club as having been seen in Prospect Park. As a basis for wider acquaintance with local birds, he copied from the list the names of all the birds which were not familiar to him.

A large number of Normal Art Students at Pratt Institute have visited the Library recently. Many students, coming from distant parts of the United States, have expressed keen appreciation of the advantages offered here to the children of the city. One student, a former teacher in Indianapolis, noted titles of books and periodicals and made drawings of several exhibition rooms. It was her hope that she might be instrumental in starting a Children's Museum in her home city.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Our Distant Possessions** Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

January 8 Alaska
15 The Hawaiian Islands
22 The Philippines
29 Porto Rico **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **American History** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

January 2 The First Explorers
9 Cortez and the Conquest of Mexico
16 The Settlement of the Middle Atlantic States
23 The Colonization of New England
30 The French and Indian Wars **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Electricity** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

January 3 Electromagnetism
10 The Telegraph
17 How to Make and Install Electric Bells
24 Electromagnetic Induction
31 Induction Coils **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of Africa** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

January 4 Northern Africa
11 Egypt
18 The African Jungle
25 Southern Africa **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Animal Builders** Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

January 5 Beavers
12 Bird Builders
19 Insect Builders
26 Builders of the Sea **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

Around Long Island in a Rowboat

January 5 In the Marshes
12 Among Rocky Pools
19 Along Sandy Beaches
26 Up the Tide Water Streams **A. B. Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 9.00 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.30 P.M.

VOL. V. BROOKLYN, N. Y., FEBRUARY AND MARCH 1918 Nos. 5 and 6

DOLLS OF THE ELLIOTT COLLECTION

Beginning at the left; a woman of Algiers, an Alsatian girl, a Roman peasant, a Welch woman, and a Scottish fishwife from Newhaven

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THE ELLIOTT COLLECTION OF DOLLS

Boys and girls can have a new glimpse of foreign lands through a collection of dolls recently placed on exhibition in the Museum. These dolls are the gift of Miss Elenore E. Elliott in memory of her brother, Dr. George Frederick Elliott, and are dressed in the native costumes of the countries which they typify. They represent regions as remote as Russia and Algeria, and people of as widely diversified occupations as the Scotch fishwife, in her gingham dress covered by a rough cloak, and the Spanish beauty from Salamanca with her gorgeously embroidered red satin skirt, rich gilt apron, and gold trimmed kerchief.

The youngest member of the group is the little Lapland baby, snugly ensconced in his wooden "katkem" or cradle with a sheepskin blanket tucked around him. Many a "little mother," who must carry a heavy baby brother about with her, would be glad for such a device as this one which the Lapp mother suspends safely from the top of her tent by means of deerskin thongs. Little American girls, who prefer old rag dolls to fancy wax or china ones, can realize how much the children of the Canary Islands enjoy the homespun doll shown here.

Nowadays we are reminded so often of the sufferings caused to children by the war, that it is a pleasant contrast to think of the happy little European children represented by these dolls. The trim French girl with her flaxen braids makes a pretty picture in her neat black dress and spick and span white cap and apron. American children who are accustomed to brightly colored clothing are surprised to see the sombre dress of the French children. The costume of the Alsatian girl is somewhat brighter, for her black skirt has a green border and her bodice is trimmed in green and gold. She wears the well known Alsatian bow on her head.

Two little girls from the Black Forest are shown dancing merrily with a Tyrolean child. The tiny gold ornaments and silver crosses which they wear on velvet ribbons around their necks are typical of the heirlooms which the peasants of several countries have given up to help their government in the war. Near this group stands a Tyrolean boy wearing a broad brimmed hat and carrying an Alpine staff, just as if he were ready to start up into the mountains with his herd of goats. Most boys here would consider it great sport to "camp out" with him for a few days and sleep in a little hut high in the Alps. They would find that he is not a "sissy" by any means, even if he does knit for his mother while his goats are enjoying the pasture he finds for them. Our boys who are knitting for the Red Cross would be interested to see some of his work.

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Most of these picturesque costumes are worn only by the peasants in country districts although they can often be seen in the cities on the country people who have to come to town. If we were walking through Stockholm, we would be very likely to meet a Swedish mother and daughter from Dalecarlia such as you see in the picture. They are dressed almost alike, with brightly striped aprons over black skirts, black peaked caps, and white jackets of a felted homespun cloth or vadmel, edged with lamb's wool.

We feel that we have met an old friend in the shape of the Welch

BEGINNING AT THE LEFT; A SWEDISH MOTHER AND DAUGHTER OF DALECARLIA, A RICH SPANISH WOMAN OF SALAMANCA, AND A DUTCH VILLAGE WOMAN OF VOLENDAM

housewife, for she is the image of Mother Goose in her full winsey skirt, ample, red cloak, and her frilly cap surmounted by a stovepipe hat. Evidently she is not going to waste a minute, for she carries her knitting with her in her basket. Several of the other dolls, especially the Dutch ones, have decided suggestions of home life or daily occupations about them. The young woman from Dordrecht with her knitting satisfies our notion of Dutch trimness, for her neat, dark dress is covered with an immaculate apron and her hair is brushed into a smooth pompadour under her stiff, white cap. Her cap is fastened by gold, eye pins which were

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doubtless handed down through many generations in her family. The village woman and fisherman from Volendam are perhaps more typical of our conventional idea of the Dutch costume—the woman with her wooden shoes, white cap, and double topped apron, and the man with his black turban and blue velvet bloomers from the pockets of which hangs a bright plaid handkerchief. They are all from the region about the Zuyder Zee where the inhabitants have retained their traditional costumes longer than in any other part of Holland.

As a contrast to the more sober Dutch, we have the festively dressed Spanish woman, the Russian girl in her heavily beaded gala costume, the Cossack girl whose hair is bound with a wreath of bright flowers, and the gay Italian peasants. One of the Italian women carries a tambourine and is prepared to dance, while the other in her bright red, green, and white costume is typical of the peasants who go to Rome to pose for the artists there.

We get an idea of Oriental luxury from the richly colored draperies and brilliant jewels of the Rajah and Ranee, native Indian rulers. Probably they wear this costume only on very special court occasions. The woman from Algiers represents another portion of the Orient. The head dress which veils all of her face, except her eyes and jewelled head band, shows that she is a Mohammedan and is suggestive of the mysterious beauties of the "Arabian Nights."

The Russian pilgrim to Jerusalem is an exponent of a sterner religion. He is a quaint little figure in his long, white sheepskin coat, high cap of black lamb's wool, and the prayer towel hanging down over his knees. The pack on his back, which contains clothing, an extra prayer towel, and black bread, and the staff in his hands, show that he is prepared for his long journey to the Holy Land. We wish him well, as our imagination follows all the adventures and hardships he is likely to encounter on the way to his desired goal.

C. R.

THE CLOSING OF THE MUSEUM

Not until the last shovelful was in the furnace, and the dealers had reluctantly admitted that no more coal was obtainable, did we close the Museum to the public on December 29. That night the mercury sank to 6 degrees below zero subjecting the plumbing and heating to the severest strain in its history. The thermometer registered 12 degrees below zero the next day. Fortunately none of the exhibits were injured

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by water from bursting pipes although the damage to plumbing was considerable.

The work of replacing pipes and radiators began the next Monday, the employees of the building wearing gloves and outside wraps at their indoor work. Before January had passed, the heating plant was practically made over with many improvements, causing joyous anticipation of a comfortable building to succeed the unhappy disappointment of December 29. Coal arrived on February 1 enabling us to open the Museum on February 2 with five tons on hand. We hope that a steady supply in the future will insure the continuation of the Museum activities without further interruption.

FEBRUARY AND MARCH NEWS

On account of closing the Museum, the January issue of the News with its announcement of lectures was not mailed to the schools in Brooklyn. It seemed best also to omit the publication of the February issue because of unavoidable delay in the installation of heating apparatus for the lecture room, due to the sudden resignation of members of the mechanical force to enter Government Service. For the reasons above mentioned and to save unnecessary expense, the February and March numbers of our paper are combined in one pamphlet which is mailed to schools in the same envelope with the January number.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

The second annual meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum held in the Brooklyn Woman's Club House on January 16 was attended by one hundred members. Reports of the officers and chairmen of committees and of the Curator of the Children's Museum gave a comprehensive review of the gifts and valuable service which had been rendered to the Museum by this active organization during 1917.

The election of officers followed the reports after which the Auxiliary unanimously voted to raise the sum of $10,000 during the year 1918, this sum to be used as the beginning of a fund for the creation of Loan Collections for Schools.

FRANKLIN W. HOOPER MEMORIAL

The Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum is actively prosecuting the work of raising $10,000 during the year 1918 for the benefit of the children of Brooklyn. This sum is to be used as the beginning of a Memorial to Professor Franklin W. Hooper, late Director of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences, and is to take the form of loan

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exhibits representing the same departments of science, history, and ethnology that are to be found in the permanent collections of the Children's Museum.

It is proposed that each one of these loan exhibits shall be made as beautiful and as durable as any stationery installation in the Museum and that it shall bear a descriptive label headed by the words "Franklin W. Hooper Memorial." The loans will be circulated by the Children's Museum among schools, settlements, playgrounds, and other recreational centres conducting children's activities, and among individuals whose responsibility for such valuable property can be duly established. By means of these attractive and beautiful objects it will be possible to carry on in an ever increasing degree the kind of education to which Professor Hooper dedicated his life, and to honor the memory of one of Brooklyn's distinguished citizens whose ruling passion was the dissemination of knowledge.

Besides standing as a tribute of appreciation of the works and ideals of a great man, this Memorial will also give cheer, inspiration, and opportunity to the children of our Borough at a time when they are most in need of brightening influences. The darkening shadow of war creeping into our homes is already falling upon the children. In drafting fathers and leaving mothers perplexed and burdened by care and sorrow, it is casting many children adrift. Juvenile delinquency has already increased 25 per cent. according to a recent statement of one of our well known students of child life. The time is at hand when every agency must quicken its activities, take these neglected children, and train them to meet the responsibilities of the future. No influence can accomplish more in this direction than a passionate interest in something good. From the experience which the Museum has had with loan specimens, we know that attractive and beautiful objects of Nature going into the schools and into the homes implant within the minds of the children who see them a desire to know something about the subjects they represent. Perhaps these objects awaken the first desire the child ever has to see a Museum. At the Museum he becomes impressed with many other things and finds out that he can be taught how to see and study. As he observes and thinks about the wonders of Nature thus presented, his eyes begin to discover the nature treasures of his immediate surroundings, possibly the birds, trees, butterflies, or the stones in the open lots. Day by day and little by little he learns to search, to reflect, to enjoy, and to extend his discoveries. Thus the love and appreciation of Nature occupy his attention and time, exercise his faculties, and protect his thinking against depressing influences which the war creates. The quality of his mental processes now will determine his ability to develop into a useful citizen.

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LIBRARY NOTES

The year 1917, one of the most eventful in the history of the world, was likewise important from the Library standpoint, since a Library War Service Fund of $1,666,800 was raised in this country to provide our military camps with well equipped libraries. We esteem it a privilege, therefore, to have had a slight share in the patriotic work of raising money and forwarding books and periodicals for the benefit of soldiers and sailors in national service.

A high water mark in attendance was reached in 1917, the total number of visitors to the Library being 60,052, an increase of 9,948 over the corresponding period in 1916.

The Librarian spent one morning in January visiting a unique educational institution of Brooklyn, a model Montessori School, which is supported by Mrs. Cornelius Zabriskie and located at 176 Bond Street. After the opening exercises, the children performed the special tasks assigned to them, such as washing the tables, cleaning the faucets, sweeping, and dusting. The school "baby" of three years folded paper napkins, which were used later at lunch.

When these little duties were all finished, Miss Cleaves, the teacher, walked quietly to the blackboard and wrote the magic word, "Silence." Without a sound, each child tiptoed to his seat, and sat down with hands folded. After all were seated, Miss Cleaves went noiselessly to the back of the room and softly whispered the name of each child in turn. In response, the children tiptoed to their teacher's side and remained until the erasure of the word Silence. They were then free to select a favorite occupation, such as arranging numbers in sequence, writing, matching colors, and building with blocks. The simple luncheon served by the children themselves, the story hour, singing, marches, and games filled out the happy session until the hour of closing.

Among recent additions to the Library are "Honest Abe" by Alonzo Rothchild and the "Children's Book of Patriotic Stories." In connection with the European War, we mention Gerard's "My Four Years in Germany," Empey's graphic story called "Over the Top," and Rolt-Wheeler's "Wonder of War in the Air," about which the author states—"Every incident in the book is taken from actual happenings in the Great War, verified from official reports."

Some new books in other fields are the Pocket Garden Library in four attractive volumes, Collin's Magic of Science, and the "Story Book of Science," a book of popular science about the things under, on, and around the earth, told in story form by Jean Henri Fabre.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Industries** Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

March 5 Wheat
12 Meat
19 Cotton
26 Sugar

M. D. Lee

Grades 5A or 5B: **American History** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

March 6 The First Explorers
13 The Settlement of the Middle Atlantic States
20 The Colonization of New England
27 The French and Indian Wars

M. D. Lee

Grades 8A or 8B: **Electricity** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

March 7 The Telegraph
14 Electric Bells
21 Induction Coils
28 The Telephone

M. D. Lee

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of South America** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

March 1 Panama and the Canal
8 Brazil and the Amazon
15 Argentine and Chili
22 Ecuador, the Land of the Equator
29 Peru and Bolivia

M. D. Lee

Primary Grades: **Animals** Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

March 2 Monkeys and their Relatives
9 The Dog Family
16 The Cat Family
23 Horses
30 Other Beasts of Burden

M. D. Lee

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

The Awakening of Nature's Children

March 2 What's going on in the Ponds
9 Animal Families Underground
16 Waking Children of the Woods
23 Waking Creatures of the Fields
30 Waking Children of the Air

A. B. Gallup

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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APR 8 1918

Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 9.00 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.30 P.M.

VOL. V. BROOKLYN, N. Y., APRIL 1918 No. 7

CHOICE FRUITS FOR BIRDS

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THE FRUITS WHICH BIRDS LIKE

Among the many interesting pictures which have been exhibited in the Library, none have proved more attractive to visitors or more useful to students, than those of the beautiful series called "Some Fruits Which Birds Like." These studies, twenty-nine in number, were painted in water-colors by Mrs. James Cole Hancock of Brooklyn, expressly for the Bird Exhibit which was so successfully held at the Brooklyn Museum about two years ago under the auspices of the Bird Lovers' Club of Brooklyn. At the close of this exhibition, the pictures were presented to us for permanent keeping, but by special request, they have been displayed twice in New York City and once at a State Fair held in North Yakima, Washington.

The water-color studies measure ten by fourteen inches, and in each case accurately represent a fruiting branch in natural size. In the accompanying illustration, four different species of "fruits" were grouped together and photographed. One of the most interesting is the flowering dogwood, *cornus florida,* the bright scarlet, ovoid drupes of which grow in clusters of three or four. The dark green leaves have in the autumn a brilliant crimson tinge. Conspicuous in the axils of the leaves are the small, round flower buds with curving tips, the harbingers of the small greenish flowers which appear in May. These tiny flowers are surrounded by showy, white involucres, so often mistaken for petals.

Familiar to every child and intimately associated with Christmas wreaths and decorations, are the glossy, evergreen leaves of American Holly, *ilex opaca.* The leaves have a wavy, serrated margin with a few, spiny teeth. Holly trees are very ornamental on account of the cheery red berries which cling to the branches all winter. The light gray bark of old trees is often covered with dainty lichens.

In striking contrast to the thick, leathery leaves of the holly are the graceful sprays of the European yew, *taxus baccata.* The leaves are small, linear, flattened, and of a very deep shade of green. An English writer tells us, "Both male and female flowers are borne from the leaf axils, and the latter are followed by small nut-like seeds, enclosed except for the tips in bright red, fleshy cups. These seeds ripen from October to Christmas, and the bright cups are very effective, lighting up the dark foliage with pendants of coral. . . . . The fleshy cups of the seeds are certainly not poisonous—at any rate to birds and small boys, for both eat them greedily."

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The fruiting branch of the wild red cherry or bird cherry, *prunus Pennsylvanica,* contains shining, green leaves and numerous clusters of red berries about the size of peas. In early spring, tiny white blossoms fairly cover the trees, and by the middle of July have ripened into brilliantly colored fruits. Although the cherries are sour, they do not remain long upon the trees, for birds like them and carry them away in a few days.

In this typical series of water-color pictures, only some of the more showy plants upon which birds feed are represented. Among these, several other members of the Rose Family besides the bird cherry are effectively shown; for example, the Washington thorn, the cockspur thorn, English hawthorn, mountain ash, shad bush, and wild black cherry. Mention should be made in passing of the exquisite sprays of bayberry and snowberry, the dainty coral berry and barberry, the flame colored capsules of the burning bush or spindle tree and climbing bittersweet, and the orange-red "twin" berries of the matrimony vine.

Fortunately, all the fruits portrayed in this series, with the exception of the partridge berry which grows in attractive ferneries in the Children's Museum, may be seen in their season on the trees, shrubs, and vines of Prospect Park.

A most helpful book covering this special subject called "How to Know Wild Fruits," has been compiled by Maude Gridley Peterson. The manual is accurately described by the author as "A guide to plants when not in flower, by means of fruit and leaf." As in many other popular guides, a color arrangement has been followed, which in this case is the color of the fruit. The illustrations, chiefly black-and-white, were drawn by Mary Elizabeth Herbert.

During the past year, there has been published a set of four exquisite little volumes called the "Pocket Garden Library" which includes as the title suggests, the garden flowers of the different seasons. In "Garden Flowers of Autumn" by Ellen Eddy Shaw and its companion volume "Flowers of Winter, Indoors and Out" by Montague Free, we find miniature illustrations in color of many of the above mentioned fruits, together with much useful information about them.

In addition to these special guides, a long list of popular and scientific books, periodicals, and pamphlets treating of trees, shrubs and vines, and likewise of useful birds would be necessary in order to cover adequately the literature which the Library offers for serious study of the Fruits Which Birds Like.

M. S. D.

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*REQUIREMENTS FOR THE CERTIFICATE IN BIRD STUDY

15 Credits

I. To study external structure and descriptive terms:

1 Study the bird chart in the Bird Room or in Chapman's "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America" p. xiv. Paste or draw a chart in your notebook.

2 Locate and name the external parts of a bird on 12 specimens.

3 Make a drawing of a feather and label all its parts. Draw a spotted, streaked, barred, and margined feather from specimens in the Bird Room.

4 Draw examples of four types of bird bills; of four types of bird feet.

5 Draw each of the characters used in text books for designating the male and female.

II. To study Prospect Park birds:

1 Learn to recognize and describe the Prospect Park birds in the Bird Room.

2 Describe one or more characters that would enable one to recognize them in flight.

3 Make an alphabetical list of the birds of each family of the Prospect Park Bird Collection, using both the common and scientific names.

4 Give the chief characteristics of each Bird Family.

5 Make a list of all the species in which the male is unlike the female.

6 Make a list of all the young birds in the Bird Collection.

7 Make a list of the Prospect Park Birds that may be seen in winter, summer, spring, and autumn, or at all seasons.

8 Read in the Library on the following topics and keep a complete list of references:

Migration of Prospect Park Birds,
Food " " " "
Nesting Habits " " " "
Enemies " " " "
Distribution of birds on the earth,
Value of birds to man,
Why we should study birds.

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III. Learn 25 birds found in South America. Learn 25 birds found in the Old World and tell what countries they come from. These can be found in the Bird Room or Room of Animal Homes.

IV. Name the birds of the Study Collection that you were able to identify at sight.

V. Present a record of all the living birds you have seen during three consecutive months, including at least 10 field trips to Prospect Park or elsewhere.

VI. Write a report of trips you have taken to the bird cages in Bronx Park and Prospect Park, telling which birds interested you most, and why.

VII. Write a composition of 500 to 1000 words about birds.

VIII. Present your work at a meeting of the Children's Museum League.

IX. Show in what ways you have succeeded in interesting others in Bird Study.

*As announced in the November 1917, issue of the NEWS, the Museum is offering certificates of credit to children who complete courses of study representing individual and independent work in the Museum. The credits of each certificate count toward bronze and silver medals.

Already sixteen certificates of credit and two bronze medals have been awarded, eight young students having finished courses.

While typewritten copies of requirements in each subject are on file for consultation in the Library of the Museum and in the Busy Bee Room, the demand for printed information to take home is steadily increasing. We are therefore giving in this number the requirements for the certificate in Bird Study, the study that is most popular at this season of the year.

PRIZE FOR BIRD STUDY OFFERED BY THE BIRD LOVERS' CLUB

The Bird Lovers' Club of Brooklyn offers a field glass for the best work in Bird Study to be completed by January 1, 1919. This prize is to be won by competition and is open to Children's Museum visitors under 14 years of age who have not already won prizes or certificates in Bird Study at the Children's Museum.

Young people interested are invited to register at the Museum where the requirements for competition will be given.

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FRANKLIN W. HOOPER MEMORIAL

A musicale for the Hooper Memorial Fund which took place on March 14, at the home of Mrs. John Hills, 715 St. Mark's Avenue, was characterized by the local press as "one of the most notable Brooklyn has had this season." Compositions by Charles Gilbert Spross, composer and pianist, interpreted by eminent artists and listened to by a large and notable audience, according to the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, filled all requirements. Mrs. I. Sherwood Coffin made a felicitous speech voicing the aims of the Memorial Fund and giving a tribute to the late Professor Hooper. Warm enthusiasm for these aims took substantial form, bringing the fund up to Sixteen Hundred Dollars ($1600), One Thousand Dollars ($1000) of which is in the hands of the Treasurer of the Fund, Mrs. William H. Ziegler, 23 Clinton Street.

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

During the months of February and March, the Membership Committee held biweekly meetings at which 83 new members were reported.

Friday afternoon receptions to teachers were resumed on February 15, with Mrs. Samuel Z. Chesebro as hostess. Other hostesses for these receptions were Mrs. David Porter, Mrs. Edwin M. Cragin, and Mrs. Frank M. Avery assisted by Mrs. William Whittaker.

Other meetings of importance were a conference of Presidents of Women's Clubs to consider ways and means for augmenting the Hooper Memorial Fund; three meetings of the Executive Board of the Woman's Auxiliary, and one joint meeting of the Mothers' Circle of the Unity Child Welfare Association and the Child Study Club of the Summerfield Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. At this meeting Mrs. Don C. Seitz addressed the mothers on "The Meaning of the Children's Museum to the Young Mother." Mrs. Richard M. Chapman served tea.

Mrs. Frank Kendall Perkins was the hostess on the occasion of the first visit of the women of the Brooklyn Aquarium Society.

A plan for interesting new groups of children in the Museum is the "Museum Party," the idea of which originated with members of the Auxiliary who wished to give to the friends of their children a happy and profitable afternoon. Instead of having the children's party at home, the hostess invites her little friends to visit the Museum, under the guidance of Miss Ruth and members of the Children's Museum League who have earned medals; to hear an illustrated lecture prepared especially for them by Miss Lee, and to enjoy refreshments served at 4 o'clock. Two of these Museum Parties, the first given by Mrs. John J. Schoonhoven for her two nieces and the second by Mrs. Charles E. Osborne for her young friends in Flatbush, resulted in many enthusiastic expressions of a desire to repeat the experiment.

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LIBRARY NOTES

The Library followed its usual custom of exhibiting numerous pictures appropriate to the Birthdays of Lincoln and Washington. A large copy of a photograph of Lincoln, which was taken in Brady's famous studio at Washington on February 23, 1861, occupied a prominent place and was draped with American flags. Among other pictures were "Lincoln Studying Law in his New Salem Grocery," "Lincoln and Tad," and "The Signing of the Emancipation Proclamation." The pictures of the Father of his Country included "Washington at Valley Forge," "Washington the Boy Surveyor," and reproductions of famous portraits.

The attendance was very great on both holidays, but on Lincoln's Birthday the limited space for readers was filled to overflowing throughout the day. Children came in relays, and not only occupied all the chairs and window seats, but whenever possible, seated themselves upon the floor or stood in rows in front of several bookcases. In this way our books and periodicals were used by seven hundred boys and girls, nearly one hundred of whom read about the Life of Lincoln in such books as "Four Great Americans," "Lives of the Presidents," "Stories of Pioneer Life," and "The Perfect Tribute."

Many boys and girls have been industriously working for certificates of credit in animal study, geography, and history. For example, they have searched for information about protozoa and amphibia, the animals found on the South Sea Islands, the trees and vines in the Brazilian forests, the Berbers of the Sahara Desert, and the Masai of British East Africa. Groups of children from the Model School have been asking about the different types of bridges in New York City and their construction, and how subways and tunnels are built.

A valuable set of books in fifteen volumes, called the "Book of History," has been purchased for the Library. It is filled with attractive illustrations and is designed to be a complete history of the world from the earliest times to the present.

As General Secretary of the Brooklyn Children's Aid Society, Mr. Arthur E. Wakeman writes a most appreciative letter acknowledging the receipt from this Library of twenty-nine books and many back numbers of the Youth's Companion. Mr. Wakeman states, "These books and magazines cannot fail to be of great service to us in our work. It is not an exaggerated expression, when I say that certain similar gifts in the past have proven a real godsend."

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Astronomy** Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

April 2 The Sun
9 The Earth
16 The Moon
23 The Planets
30 The Stars

M. D. Lee

Grades 5A or 5B: **American History** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

April 3 Causes of the Revolution
10 Important Battles of the Revolution
17 The Close of the Revolution
24 The War of 1812

M. D. Lee

Grades 8A or 8B: **Electricity** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

April 4 Motors and Dynamos
11 Electric Cars
18 Electric Lighting
25 X Rays

M. D. Lee

Grades 6A or 6B: **Our Possessions** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

April 5 Alaska
12 The Hawaiian Islands
19 The Philippines
26 Porto Rico

M. D. Lee

Primary Grades: **Flower Families** Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

April 6 The Lily Family
13 The Rose Family
20 The Crowfoot Family
27 The Composite Family

M. D. Lee

Primary Grades: **Fishes** Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

April 6 How to Study a Fish
13 Living Fishes in Museum Aquaria
20 Fishes of Lakes and Streams
27 Fishes of the Sea

A. B. Gallup

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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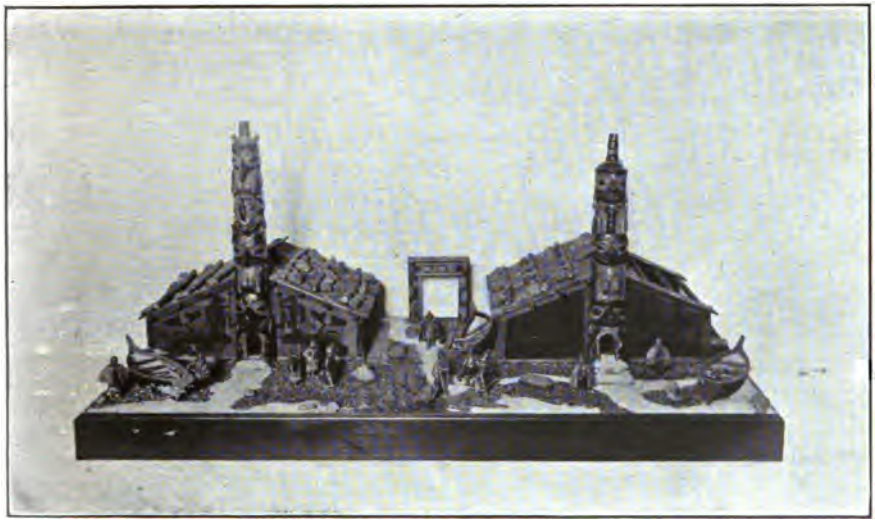
Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 9.00 A.M. to 5.30 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.30 P.M.

VOL. V. BROOKLYN, N. Y., MAY 1918 No. 8



MODEL OF HOUSES IN HAIDA INDIAN VILLAGE SHOWING TOTEM POLES

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THE TOTEM POLE

An Alaskan totem pole, loaned by Mr. W. G. Bowdoin of this city, is to be exhibited in the Museum during May. It is less than four feet high, which is much smaller than such poles were usually made, and is carved in lines similar to those of the larger poles. To the natural wood have been added touches of red, black, blue, and green.

The emblematic character of totem poles invests them with great interest. From the earliest times men have used emblems to indicate their tribes or clans. The early Egyptians carried images of bulls and crocodiles into battle, probably at first with religious sentiments. Each of the twelve tribes of Israel had a special ensign of its own, which is now generally considered to have been totemic.

Athens chose an owl for her sign, as a compliment to Minerva; Corinth a winged horse, in memory of Pegasus and his fountain; Carthage a horse's head, in homage to Neptune; Persia the sun, because its people worshiped fire; Rome an Eagle, in deference to Jupiter. These objects appear to have been carved in wood or metal.

Heraldry sprang into popularity because it afforded a means by which letterless people could designate with accuracy both persons and families. Trade marks have the same history.

Carved totem pole monuments are the most striking of the objects encountered in Alaskan travels. The simplest of them consist of a smooth, round post, 15 or 20 feet high and about 18 inches in diameter, with the figure of some animal on top—a bear, porpoise, eagle, or raven—about life size or larger. These are the totems of families that occupy houses in front of which the poles stand. Other poles support the figure of a man or woman, life size or larger usually in a sitting or squatting posture, said to resemble the dead whose ashes are contained in a closed cavity in the pole. The largest totem poles are from 30 to 60 feet high and are carved from top to bottom into human and animal totem figures, one above the other, with their limbs grotesquely doubled and folded. Some of the most imposing of these totem poles are said to commemorate historical events.

The erection of a totem pole is made an important event and is often talked about for a year or two beforehand. It is the occasion for a joyous feast, to which many are invited, and is celebrated by eating, dancing, and the distribution of gifts. Some of the larger totem poles cost a thousand dollars or more. From one to two hundred blankets, worth $3 each, are paid to the genius who carves them, while the presents and feast usually cost twice that amount, consequently only wealthy

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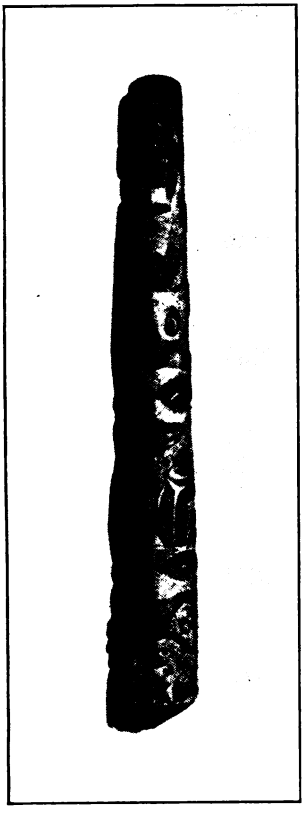
families can afford them. In one case a totem pole cost $2,500. The large ones are always planted firmly in the ground and stand fast, showing the sturdy erectness of their builders.

A telling display of family pride seems to be the prevailing motive. All of the carved figures are more or less rude, and some of them are broadly grotesque, but there is never anything like feebleness or obscurity in the expression given to them. On the contrary, they show grave force and decision, while the childish audacity displayed in the designs is combined with manly strength in their execution.



TOTEM POLE LOANED TO THE MUSEUM BY W. G. BOWDOIN

Most of the poles are made without colorings, but a few are painted with bright colors—red, yellow, dark green, and black, which give a pleasing effect. Favorite animals introduced into totem poles by their owners are the wolf, bear, deer, elk, whale, eagle, hawk, owl, turtle, beaver, rabbit, muskrat, skunk, panther, wild-cat, tiger, buffalo, crane, turkey, buzzard, fish, and frog. These animal forms have both individual and tribal significance.

There is thus the clan totem, common to a whole clan, the sex totem, common to the males or females of a clan, and the individual totem, belonging to one person and not descending to any member of the next generation. Some totems are veritable family trees.

The clan totem is reverenced by a whole clan, the members of which are known by the name of their totem. They believe themselves to be descended from a common animal ancestor and bound together by ties closer and more sacred than those of blood. The eagle clan thus believe themselves to be descended from an eagle, which they accordingly reverence and protect from harm or death, guarding it as a beneficent spirit that watches over them.

The animals representing a man's different totems-clan, family, sex, and individual are carved and painted on his tall totem pole with his house, his paddles, and other objects.

W. G. Bowdoin

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FEATHERS IN DETAIL

An exhibit of feathers recently placed in the Bird Room contains examples of many descriptions from numerous classes of birds. Besides illustrating the origin of feathers, it reveals also great diversity in feather structure and many beautiful varieties of form and color markings.

Any one who studies such a display cannot help perceiving that each feather must have been built for a special purpose. But what that purpose is must be learned from studying the birds not only as to color, shape, and size, but also as to their habitat.

In one section of the exhibit, the scale of a tarpon, the feather of a peacock, and the tooth of a shark are grouped to illustrate the fact that greatly as they differ in appearance, they all have the same beginning—namely as modifications of the epidermis.

The feathers of the sharp-tailed grouse, a bird which depends mainly on flight for locomotion, shows well developed barbicels. These are minute hooks which hold the barbs in a web close together and stiffen the feather. The body feathers of the ostrich, on the other hand, have no barbicels, because having lost its power of flight, the ostrich has become a running rather than a flying bird and no longer has need of stiff feathers. Between these two extremes are considered certain feathers of the great blue heron and the barn owl parts of which are without barbicels. In the great blue heron, there are under wing coverts, the inner webs of which are downy or without barbicels, these portions being overlapped by the stiff webs of adjoining feathers. The barn owl, which though entirely dependent on flight for overtaking its prey, must also be able to fly noiselessly, consequently, the edges of its feathers are downy. Two other feathers placed here for contrast are the downy feather found under the contour feather of a duck and the scale-like, contour feather of a penguin—the latter having a wide, hard stem and relatively few and short barbs.

The value of a bird's tail for use as a prop is emphasized in a series of stiffened feathers from the tails of the cormorant, the woodpecker, and the chimney swift.

Primary wing feathers of the more common gulls and terns are displayed together because in some cases the identification of a species is possible only by comparing the marks on these feathers.

Wing, body, and tail feathers of other birds are grouped for the purpose of showing varieties in color marks as well as differences in form, structure, and size. The long, primary wing feather of the condor, seen in the right of the picture, is contrasted with the corresponding primary of the hummingbird; metallic lustre is illustrated in specimens

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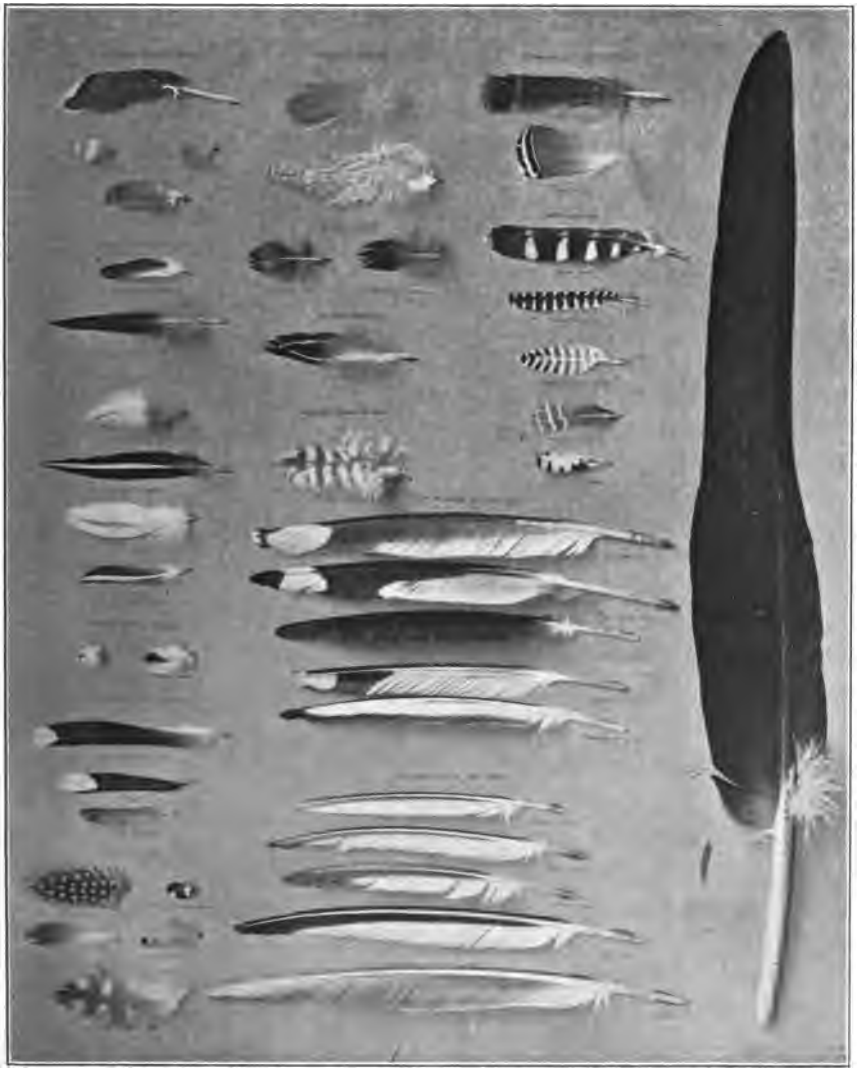
from the peacock, hummingbird, wild turkey, and mallard duck; and margined, streaked, barred, spotted, mottled, and vermiculated feathers illustrate how Nature protectively or aggressively marks her feathered children.



VARIETIES IN COLOR MARKINGS OF FEATHERS

The familiar "maribou," used in the manufacture of feather boas, is seen to be made from the under tail coverts of the maribou stork—the ugliest bird known although the producer of the most beautiful feathers in the world.

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Another example of feather structure brought out by this exhibit is the aftershaft, an accessory plume found in many birds, arising from the posterior side of the stem of the feather. In the contour feather of the mallard duck it is hardly visible; it is almost one third the length of the feather in the sandhill crane, and is three quarters the length in the rough-legged hawk. It reaches its greatest development in the emu where it is as long and as perfect as the main feather. Nobody yet has ever been able to determine the use of this structure.

FRANKLIN W. HOOPER MEMORIAL FUND

As we go to press, invitations are being mailed for a meeting in the interest of the Franklin W. Hooper Memorial Fund. This meeting is to be held under the joint auspices of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum and the Franklin W. Hooper Committee of the Women's Clubs, Mrs. Don C. Seitz, Chairman, in the Woman's Club House, April 24, 1918. The speakers are to be Honorable David A. Boody and Mrs. Bertha Kunz-Baker. There will be music under the direction of Madam Mildred Howson Hartley. A silver collection will be taken at the end of the program.

A portable case of birds loaned to the Children's Museum by the N. W. Harris Public School Extension of Chicago will be on view during the evening as an example of what the Children's Museum proposes to lend to the Brooklyn Schools. It represents a family of least bitterns at home in a marsh. The adult male, perched on a water soaked stump at the edge of a pool, seems to be waiting for "something to turn up," while the female, approaching the nest made of brown reeds, is feeding the three, hungry, downy fledglings. The painted background of this pretty domestic scene depicts the plant life and color of the marsh on a bright spring day.

This specimen case and a motion picture showing how loans are prepared, distributed, and used will be shown to groups of visitors who may become interested in a loan collection for schools in Brooklyn.

Many active members of the Children's Museum League, in accordance with a plan recommended by Mrs. Don C. Seitz, are selling stamps illustrative of patriotic scenes in American History and contributing the proceeds to the fund. The Treasurer of this fund is Mrs. William H. Ziegler, 23 Clinton Street.

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Continued activities of the Membership Committee, Mrs. J. Richard Taylor, Chairman, have added 34 new members during the past month.

At their meeting on April 2, the Executive Board voted the sum of Fifty Dollars ($50.00) toward the expense of educational films to be used in the new motion picture machine now in operation.

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LIBRARY NOTES

The Library of the Children's Museum has gladly responded to the requests made by the War Service Committee of the American Library Association and the New York State Library in relation to books for our soldiers and sailors. Two effective posters have been exhibited, one bearing the motto "Books Wanted for Our Men in Camp and Over There," and typified by an American soldier heavily laden with books; the other representing two groups of soldiers and sailors in the act of signaling a message, with its interpretation "They signal 'Send Books' Over There and to Our Men in Camp Everywhere."

With the help of the Tree Club, a large number of periodicals has been collected and sent from time to time to a Field Director of the American Red Cross for use on transport ships. Bound volumes have also been received and have been forwarded for War Service needs through the Brooklyn Public Library to headquarters at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. It is a pleasure to record that several boys and girls, as well as adults, have expressed their interest in this patriotic work by donating useful books and magazines from their own libraries.

The children have been greatly interested in reading stories of heroes, notably Nathan Hale and Joan of Arc. There have been many calls for patriotic poems, such as Barbara Frietchie, Paul Revere's Ride, and the Charge of the Light Brigade. Likewise, numerous requests have been made for stories to illustrate "Patriotism" and "Thrift," and for suggestions in writing compositions about these topics.

The number of readers in March was 7,327, the largest number yet recorded for a single month and an increase of 1,317 over the corresponding month last year. The attendance was quite evenly distributed throughout the month, but reached its culmination during the week preceding Easter, which was a holiday for the Public Schools. The largest number of visitors on a single day was 568.

The Spring anniversaries, Bird Day and Arbor Day, brought many inquiries for poems and class exercises suitable for these occasions. Moreover, during several days in April, members of the Tree Club were busily gleaning data from editorials and other articles in the New York Times in preparation for a debate which was couched in the following terms: "Resolved that trenches should be dug in Central Park to further the Third Liberty Loan."

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Physical Geography** Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

May 7 Causes of Wind and Rain
14 Ocean Movements
21 Plant Life

M. D. Lee

Grades 5A or 5B: **American History** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

May 1 The Mexican War
8 The Civil War, Part I
15 The Civil War, Part II
22 The Spanish-American War

M. D. Lee

Grades 8A or 8B: **Historical Stories** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

May 2 Evangeline
9 The Courtship of Miles Standish
16 Hiawatha
23 The Lady of the Lake

M. D. Lee

Grades 6A or 6B: **Our National Parks** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

May 3 The Grand Canon of the Colorado
10 Yellowstone National Park
17 Glacier National Park
24 The Yosemite Valley

M. D. Lee

Primary Grades: **Bird Life** Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

May 4 Birds that Nest in Brooklyn in Spring
11 Birds that Nest in Brooklyn in Summer
18 Water Birds in Prospect Park
25 Birds of Prey in Prospect Park

M. D. Lee

Primary Grades: **Other Facts About Fishes** Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

May 4 How Young Fishes are Born
11 Fishes with Curious Weapons
18 The Lung Fish
25 Pipe Fishes

A. B. Gallup

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

VOLUME VI

OCTOBER 1918 TO MAY 1919

An illustrated periodical devoted to the activities of the Children's Museum in presenting to children various subjects in Natural History, Geography, and United States History.

BROOKLYN, N. Y.

1918-1919

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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

OF

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Bedford Park, Brooklyn Avenue between Prospect Place and Park Place

FREE TO THE PUBLIC

Week days ..... **10.00 A. M. to 5.00 P. M.**

Sundays ..... **2.00 P. M. to 5.00 P. M.**

The Children's Museum was established in 1899. It was the first institution of its kind and with the exception of a similar museum at Boston, Massachusetts, opened in 1912, was for years the only museum in the world maintained expressly for children.

It aims to interest and instruct children by means of exhibits of Natural History Specimens; Geographical and Historical Models; a Library containing 7,500 carefully selected and graded books; illustrated lectures, and personal attention to visitors.

The Museum Publications comprise the Annual Report, The Children's Museum News, Circulars of Information, Classified lists of Specimens to Lend to Schools, lists of Nature Books, and a Catalogue of the History Collection and of the Geography Collection.

To Reach the Museum: From Subway; St. John's Place car to Brooklyn Avenue. From Brooklyn Bridge; Fulton Street or Bergen Street surface cars to Brooklyn Avenue; Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station. From Williamsburgh Bridge; Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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VOLUME VI

OCTOBER 1918 TO MAY 1919

ILLUSTRATIONS

Alligator 53

Busy Bee Room

Invested With Some of its Former Glory..... 17

(A) Flower Game in..... 1

Coolie Carrying Bales of Merchandise, Model of..... 33

Facsimile of Signature and Thumb Print of Sitting Bull..... 57

Family of Least Bitterns (Loan Case, Chicago)..... 21

Farmer Ploughing Rice Field, Model of..... 35

(The) Head of a Poisonous Viper, Model of..... 9

(The) Insect Room, Exhibit in, Showing Dead Leaf Butterfly and Walking Leaf Insect of India..... 25

Lafayette's Watch Fob 44

(The) Taj Mahal, Alabaster Model..... 41

Turtles Seen Through the Side of an Aquarium..... 52

Type Room, Eggs and Egg Cases in the..... 12

Typical Wood Warblers, (A) Few..... 49

Woodcock Resting on a Forest Floor, Group of..... 27

VOLUME VI

OCTOBER 1918 TO MAY 1919

INDEX

Adams, Jennie 6

Agra, Hindustan 42, 43

(The) American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees 19

Tree Club 3, 4, 19, 36, 43, 59, 63

Drive 19

Fund 36, 59

is Junior League 19

Plan to Beautify Brooklyn 19

Roosevelt Memorial 43, 59

Digitized by Google

Albany, New York 7
American Library Association ..... *See* Library Association
American Red Cross ..... *See* Red Cross
Animal Homes, Room of 26
(An) Appeal for Cord 38, 43
Aquarium, (The) New York 52, 53
Study 6
Attendance 37, 46
In December 37
Library ..... *See* Library
Atwood, Martha 45
(The) Baby Parade 3-4, 29, 38
Banjo Club, Boys' High School 29
Bedford Park 3, 4, 59
Beecher, Mrs. William C. 3
Behrand, Edmund 23
Bergen Beach 2
Bergstresser, Clinton A. 34-35
Bird Lovers' Club of Brooklyn 7, 31, 50, 63
Service Flag 7, 31, 63
Bird Room 20, 29, 30
Study 37
Birthday
Lincoln's 37, 46, 55
Washington's 37
Party 6
Board of Education 22
Boody, Hon. David A. 38
Bossert, Hotel 38
Botany 37
Collection 18
Bowen, Agnes E., ... 44
Chinese Models 34-35
British Empire 42
Brooklyn Botanic Garden 23
Brooklyn Daily Eagle 45

Digitized by Google

(The) Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences..... 45
Board of Trustees 3
Botanic Garden, Brooklyn 23
Children's Museum .....*See* Children's Museum
Bulletin 38
Museums, Director of, William H. Fox..... 3, 38
Museums, Gift Funds of 60
(The) Brooklyn Institute and Youths' Free Library..... 45
Brooklyn Navy Yard 63
Brooklyn Public Library .....*See* Library
Brooklyn Training School for Teachers .....*See* School
Brower, Hon. George V..... 3
Brown, Mrs. Julia 58
Busy Bee Room 2, 12, 30, 37
Cacatua roseicapillas, Vieillot..... 30
Camillus, New York 42
(A) Change in the Staff..... 37
Change of Museum Hours 14
Charlat, Sidney 20
Chemistry (Lecture Room made Laboratory) 37
Chesebro, Mrs. Samuel Z. 6
Children's Museum 2, 3, 5, 12, 18, 19, 26, 29, 30, 31 34, 36, 38, 45, 55, 60, 62, 63
Children's Museum, Boston, Massachusetts..... 15
(The) Children's Museum, Camouflage in..... 26
(The) Children's Museum League.....2, 3, 6, 12, 19, 30, 46
Children's Museum News 31, 42, 43, 51, 61
Children's Parties 6
Children's Point of View, From the..... 37
Children's Year 6
Chinese Models 34-35
Christmas Vacation at the Museum..... 37
Club
Banjo, Boys' High School..... 29
Bird Lovers' of Brooklyn.....*See* Bird
New York Library .....*See* Library

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Tree.....*See* (The) American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees
Cuckatoo, (A) Rose-Breasted .....*See Cacatua*
Coffin, Mrs. I. Sherwood 38
Coghill, Martha 4
College, State Normal, Ypsilanti, Michigan..... 7
Columbus Day 11
Corwin, Roy S. 31
Cragin, Mrs. Edwin Moore 6
Crippled Children, Visit of 6
Croix de Guerre 62
Cumming, Mrs. Susanne Q. 38
Curtiss, Captain Austen 18, 62
Cyperus 54
Dances: Fairy, Folk, Patriotic 4
Daughters of the Revolution 6, 20, 30
(On) December Sixth 18
Dehli, India 42
De Paug, Edgar 30
Diamonds, Historical 42
Ditmas, Charles A. 3
Docent 14, 37
Draper, Miriam S. 7
(The) Wood Warblers 50-51
Duclo, Estelle 38
Eastman, Mrs. William F..... 38
Eggs and Egg Cases 12-13
England 43
Farrar, Dr. James M..... 3
Farrar, Evelyn 4
Field Museum of Chicago, Illinois 20
Field Museum of Natural History (Chicago)..... 29
Harris, (The) N. W., Public School Extension of the.... 20, 21
Field Signal Battalion, 302 14
Fire Department 11
Fleischer, Edward 31

Digitized by Google

Fletcher, Helen 6
Florence, Italy 42
Folding Chairs and Tables..... 37
Forest Park 2
Fourth Liberty Loan 15
Committee, Second Federal Reserve District..... 15
Posters and "Present Battle Line" Cards..... 15
Fox, William H. 3, 38
Fox, Mrs. William H..... 3
From a Lively Sector .....*See* Letters
Gallup, Anna B.....8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56, 64
Gardner, Mrs. W. T. 43
Geography Collection 28
Room 30, 62
(A) Grievance Against the Museum..... 36
Goldstein, Solomon 20
Hampton Roads, Virginia 31
Hancock, Mrs. James Cole 50
Hesselbach, Mr. 7
Second Lieutenant Henry V..... 31
Hill, William 2, 20
Hindustan 42
Hirsch, Mrs. William Victor..... 42
History Collection 6, 29
Room 45, 58
Holidays in February 37
Hooper Memorial, Franklin W.....*See* Memorials
Cards 20, 30
Franklin W. Hooper, (A) Memorial to..... 38
Musicale 45
Party 20, 30, 37
Prize 20
(A) Stamp Bee 30
Stamp Fund 20, 30
Stamps 37
Howe, Mrs. Arthur 60

Digitized by Google

Hunt, Clara W. 23
Indian Arrowheads 54
Italy 42
Janes, Elmer 20
Jones, Mrs. Shannah Cumming..... 29, 38
Kaiser, Miss 31
Key, Lieutenant Robert 11
Laboratory 37
Lafayette in Brooklyn 45
Lafayette's Watch Fob 44, 45
Lake City, Minnesota 31
Lecture Room 18, 19, 22, 29, 36, 37, 46, 59
(An) Improvement in 22
Insufficient Space—*See* (A) Grievance Against the Museum
Schedules 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56, 64
Lectures 59
Lectures and Motion Pictures..... 2, 3
Special 8, 16, 24, 40
Special Resumed 22
Lee, Mary Day 8, 16, 24, 32, 40, 48, 56, 64
Lesser, Gerald 20
Letters
from a Lively Sector 14
from a Wireless Student..... 5
from Yonkers, with Gift..... 47
Library 29, 50
Association, American 63
(The) Apprentices of the Village of Brooklyn..... 45
Attendance 39, 55
(The) Brooklyn Institute and Youths' Free..... 45
Camp Service 63
Club, New York 23
Notes 7, 15, 23, 31, 39, 47, 55, 63
Public
Brooklyn 63
Brooklyn, Children's Department 23
Mason City, Iowa 7

Digitized by Google

School
New York (City) Public 7, 63
New York State, Albany 7
Pratt Institute, of Library Science 23
Lincoln's Birthday ..... *See* Birthday
(A) Lively Sector, From ..... *See* Letters
Loans 13
Lockport, New York 42
London, England 43
Long Island, New York 10
Longstreet, Miss 15
Longworth, Kate B. 29, 31
Luce, Ensign Philip 62
Manlius, New York 42
McCabe, James J. 4
McCandless, Margaret 4
McCormack, Margaret 4
McKay, Mrs. Chester 30, 38
Meleney, Grace Coit 37
Sitting Bull 58-59
Memorials,
Hooper ..... *See* Hooper Memorial
Roosevelt ..... *See* Roosevelt Memorial
War ..... *See* War Memorial
Mineral Room **42, 43**
Study 37
Motion Picture Films, (A) Collection of 22
Motion Pictures 11
Museum
Brooklyn 23
Children's ..... *See* Children's Museum
Children's, Boston, Massachusetts 15
Field, Chicago, Illinois 20, 29
Hours, Change of 14
Natural History, Springfield, Massachusetts 7
Snakes in the 10
Staff 14, 37, 46

Digitized by Google

Musicale 45
Napoleon 30
(A) New Exhibit 28-29
November the Eleventh (Peace Holiday) 19
Observations 14
Palmer, John 45
Parade ..... *See* Baby Parade
Pardo, Sylvia 4
Paris, France 18
Park Department 3
Peace Holiday ..... *See* November the Eleventh
Persia 43
Power's Camerograph 3
Prince, Mrs. Benjamin 18
Prizes 4, 20
Promotion (A) 18
Prospect Park 31, 50
Publications, New 6, 22, 29
(The) Recent Gifts Exhibit 60-62
(A) Reception 29
Reed, Fred S. 29
Red Cross
American 63
Drive 38
Fund 38
Second War Fund, Woman's Division 3
Reece, Ernest J. 7, 63
(The) Return of Our Boys 62
Riegelmann, Dr. Laura 3
Ris, George 2
Room of Animal Homes 26
Roosevelt Memorial, Theodore
Fund 59
In Memory of 59
(A) Memorial to 43
Passing of 39
Seven Red Oak Trees 59

Digitized by Google

Roy, Judge Robert H. 3
Ruth, Christine 6, 31, 37
Camouflage in the Children's Museum..... 26-27
Snakes in the Museum 10-11
Saunders, Irving 20
Scarl, Aaron 20
School
Public: Brooklyn Training School for Teachers..... 55
Public: (Elementary)
41, 93 4
64 15
168 6
172 31
Public: High (Secondary)
Boys', Banjo Club 29
State Normal, Bridgewater, Massachusetts..... 7
State Normal, Geneseo, New York..... 7
Schools, Group of New York City..... 46
Schoonhoven, Mrs. J. J. 30, 63
Secretary of the Navy..... 5
Seitz, Master Lawrence 6
Seitz, Mrs. Don C..... 30, 38
Seven Red Oak Trees 59
Shah Jehan 42
Shell Room 42, 60
Sitting Bull 58-59
Smith, Sergeant Edgar 62
Snakes in the Museum 10-11
(A) Stamp Bee .....*See* Hooper Memorial
Stutzer, Mrs. Herman 45
Staff 14, 46
(A) Change in the..... 37
Taj Mahal 42-43
Tapa Cloth, Beater, Printing Sticks..... 28-29
Taylor, Mrs. J. Richard 38
Townsend, C. H. 52

Digitized by Google

Tree Club.....*See* American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees
Troy, New York 42
Type Collection 6, 14
Room 10, 12
Turtles and Small Alligators, Care of..... 52-54
United States 47
Army Radio Corps 18
Department of Labor 6
Fish Commission 31
Fuel Administration 18
Indian Bureau 11
Vacation Activities 2
Visit of Crippled Children 6
Walsh, Lester 7, 63
War Memorial, $1,000 Given, Tablet..... 62
Washington's Birthday .....*See* Birthday
Wells, John Barnes 45
(A) Widely Appreciated Gift..... 18
William Wise & Sons..... 42
Wireless Telegraphy 18
(The) Wireless Class 5
Student, Letter From .....*See* Letters
Wolk, Sarah 20
Woman's Auxiliary 4, 18, 20, 30, 38
of The Children's Museum 3, 29, 47, 60
Annual Meeting 38
Notes 45, 62
(The) Wood Warblers 50-51
Young Men's Christian Association 11, 63
Zoological Park 53
Society, New York..... 52

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 9.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.00 P.M.

VOL. VI. BROOKLYN, N. Y., OCTOBER 1918 No. 1

A FLOWER GAME IN THE BUSY BEE ROOM

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VACATION ACTIVITIES

The insect and flower collectors were greatly in evidence this summer at the Children's Museum just as usual. Early in the season, the children of the League began to prepare for the test on butterflies, moths, beetles, and grasshoppers, which would entitle them to the loan of a net, the most necessary article for the insect hunts of the summer. Even before school closed, they began picking up beetles on the way to the Museum, or bringing in a stray butterfly or moth.

Just as soon as vacation time brought the children freedom, the Busy Bee Room became the most alive spot in the Museum. It was here that the boys and girls all gathered to spread insects on mounting boards, to exchange duplicates, and to compare the results of their various expeditions. In addition to the children's own outings, there were field trips conducted by the Museum to Forest Park, Bergen Beach, and various vacant lots. Each one of these trips was marked by the delight of discovering some butterfly, wasp, or beetle which was new to the boys and girls. Although the summer activities resulted in a number of nice little collections, the most complete is that of George Ris, 1165 St. John's Place. It consists of forty different species of moths and butterflies, some quite rare, each one represented by both the male and female.

Another centre of attraction in the Busy Bee Room has been the flower table. The children have kept this supplied with specimens of all the flowering weeds of the vicinity. They have learned to identify a great many of these themselves and have studied the structure of flowers from them. Several of the boys have pressed as many different kinds of flowers as they could find, labelling them carefully with the name of the specimen, the family to which it belongs, and the place and date of collection. William Hill has a neatly arranged herbarium of about forty-five species of flowers found in near-by fields.

The breeding cage in the Busy Bee Room has been less abundantly supplied with caterpillars than usual. But in spite of this a number of chrysalides were formed by caterpillars and were watched with great interest until the butterflies emerged. Just now the cage is the home of several large cecropia caterpillars which are spinning the silk cocoons in which they will spend the winter.

LECTURES AND MOTION PICTURES

Arrangements have already been made in some of the schools to relate the school courses of study to the Museum lectures more closely. Over thirty-five special lectures have been arranged for the autumn months and we shall be glad to write schedules for other teachers who may wish to bring classes during school hours.

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The lectures will be more helpful than in former years because the Museum has obtained a large number of new colored lantern slides, new illustrative material, and a motion picture machine, Power's Cameragraph No. 6 B, which has been thoroughly tested and is working satisfactorily.

THE BABY PARADE

Responding to an appeal from Mrs. Wm. C. Beecher, Chairwoman of the Woman's Division of the 2d Red Cross War Fund, the Children's Museum organized a Baby Parade which was held in Bedford Park on May 24, 1918, and netted a sum of $503.68.

During the ten days prior to this event, information about the program of the day was given in the newspapers. Posters were displayed in the Museum, in Bedford Park, and in the stores of the neighborhood, and dodgers were carried into many homes. Nearly every local motion picture theatre exhibited lantern slides announcing also that motion pictures would be taken of the children in parade.

Members of the Tree Club and of the Children's Museum League contributed their part in preparing for the success of the day's program by arranging separate processions of Tree Club and League children to escort the Baby Parade. Officers of both organizations gave freely of their time and work in maintaining stations on the north and south porches of the Museum for the enrollment of members who wanted to march. They also prepared banners and mottoes descriptive of their activities in relation to the Red Cross movement. One member contributed head and arm bands for the marchers.

Escorted by the Tree Club and League processions, the children of the Baby Parade passed before the judges' stand in three sections. Class A, comprising the babies less than two years of age, Class B, the walking babies from two to five years old, and Class C, the children from five to eight years old. There were four hundred and twenty children in these three sections.

Bedford Park was never more beautiful than under the blue sky and bright sunlight of that perfect May afternoon. Several thousand people surrounded the large grass plot east of the Museum where the parade took place and arranged themselves in an oval formation. On the south side of the oval was the judges' stand which had been placed by the Park Department and decorated with flags. There were present on this stand officers of the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences and of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum, Mr. Charles A. Ditmas, Master of Ceremonies, Director William H. Fox and Mrs. Fox, Hon. George V. Brower, Dr. James M. Farrar, Judge Robert H. Roy, and Dr. Laura Riegelmann.

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The opening number of the program was the singing of the Star Spangled Banner led by Mr. James J. McCabe. Following the singing was a Folk Dance by the pupils of P. S. 93, a Fairy Dance by Miss Sylvia Pardo of P. S. 41, and a Patriotic Dance by Miss Margaret McCandless. The dances immediately preceded the parade.

The Baby Parade brought together many handsome children and an attractive variety of interesting costumes and decorated carriages. Timely issues of the day were not omitted from either. Young Democracy, an infant of five month, sat upright in a carriage bearing the legend "Help me grow." Uncle Sam and Liberty appeared in miniature wearing the national colors. Tiny Red Cross Nurses carried wounded dolls on stretchers, and soldiers and marines in khaki and blue advanced with the martial tread of "real soldiers." One little farmer citizen, with hoe, rake, and a wagon full of produce confidently carried the big placard that showed he was "Helping Hoover."

As soon as the parade was finished, the judges began to realize that their positions were not altogether honorary, for the question of how to award three loving cups, three silver medals, three blue ribbons, and three cash prizes remained for them to settle.

While their decisions were being made, a group of girls tagged the spectators with ten cent tags, children bought ice cream cones, the members of the Tree Club collected five dollars in an American flag, adults pinned greenbacks to a Red Cross Banner, and a German helmet gathered in the extra dimes and quarters. A young soldier also who was passing by about that time, observing the crowd, came in to see what was going on in the Park. When he saw that money was wanted he passed around his hat, which was quickly filled with silver and bills, and turned it in as his "bit" for Uncle Sam.

First prizes were awarded to Margaret McCormack, Class A, Evelyn Farrar, Class B, and Martha Coghill, Class C. All of the prizes and printing and nearly all of the materials used in preparation for the Baby Parade were given to the cause by citizens and friends of the Museum, while the work of preparation, and responsibility for the program were the contribution of the Woman's Auxiliary.

The motion picture photographer, who was so noticably active in the early part of the afternoon, obtained an excellent film and donated it to the Museum. Mothers and friends of the children who marched are invited to the Museum on Wednesday, October 16, at 4:30 P. M. to enjoy in the picture a scene which a prominent citizen of the neighborhood characterized as the most inspiring event that had taken place in Bedford Park during his long residence in this section.

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THE WIRELESS CLASS

A class in wireless telegraphy for young boys was started at the Museum during the summer and will be continued as long as there is a demand for it. Any boy in the 5B grade or over is eligible to join.

The first step in the course is the learning of the international code. When that is done, practice on a buzzer begins. Pupils are taught the uses of various instruments, methods of making connections, and elementary principles of electricity.

For ten years the Museum had a wireless station in which messages were sent and received over fairly long distances, but when war was declared it was dismantled by order of the Secretary of the Navy.

During those years the station gave inspiration and instruction to many boys who are now serving their country in wireless departments.

The demand for their services has always been greater than the supply. Early in the summer the Museum was asked to recommend one of our boys for a position of wireless instructor in a wireless school of one of our universities.

The boys who are learning and practicing the code now, intend to be qualified to erect stations and maintain them when amateur stations are again permitted.

Below is a letter from one of the boys received after this note was written and just as we are going to press:

"Dear Miss—— Sept. 17, 1918

"Just a few lines to let you know I am still living and still in this no mans land. I had hoped to be able to write from the other side of the pond but that pleasure is still before me. However, I am due for a transfer shortly and I may be lucky enough to land what I want.

"A few days ago I graduated out of the "Gob" class and received an appointment as Chief Electrician Radio. I thought you might be interested enough to want to know how some of the kids that pounded the brass at J.G. [the wireless call for Children's Museum] are getting along. I can't speak for the rest of them but as for myself I am a small part of the Museum contribution towards the war. Perhaps the big bugs that pull the strings didn't do such a bad thing after all when they gave the boys a few instruments to play with.

"I will let you know later just what happens to me and if I have an opportunity to get back to New York I will surely take the time to drop in to see you. Give my kindest regards to Miss G. and Miss C. and the best of luck to yourself.

"Believe me, I am,

Sincerely"

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CHILDREN'S PARTIES

Among the pleasant features of the late spring activities of the Museum were several children's parties.

Through the kindness of Mrs. Edwin Moore Cragin, twenty-three crippled children were transported from P. S. 168 in automobiles and spent an entire morning. Nearly all of them were able to walk about the building, but those who could not walk were carried in chairs. Their visit was concluded with luncheon, including ice cream and cake, around the long table in one of the rooms of the basement.

Master Lawrence Seitz and Miss Jennie Adams entertained the members of the Betsy Ross Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution, for an afternoon. As Lawrence is a member of the Children's Museum League, he was quite capable of escorting his friends among the collections and explaining to them the objects of greatest interest. The guests then saw a motion picture, after which they were served with ice cream and cake.

Helen Fletcher, who is also a member of the League, chose the Museum as the scene for her birthday party and invited eleven little people. They spent a most profitable hour with Miss Ruth choosing different objects about which they wanted to hear stories. The birthday cake, ice cream, and favors were served by Helen's mother and friends.

As this is Children's Year, designated by the Children's Bureau of the United States Department of Labor, the Museum is glad to extend its hospitality to any mothers who, under present conditions, find it difficult to entertain their children at home.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Several illustrated pamphlets and folders have been prepared and are being issued for free distribution as rapidly as the printer can deliver them.

Two of the pamphlets are now available. The History Collection, of twelve pages and the Type Collection of sixteen pages. A folder, Requirements for the Certificate in Aquarium Study is also ready. It is designed for free distribution among Museum visitors who wish to make a study of the aquatic plants and animals in the Museum and to maintain balanced aquaria at home. It is illustrated with two cuts, one of a balanced aquarium and the other of a fish with the external parts completely labelled.

Several children who have already earned certificates in other subjects have expressed their intention of earning credits in Aquarium Study this winter. This folder was published through the generosity of Mrs. Samuel Z. Chesebro.

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LIBRARY NOTES

At the June meeting of the Bird Lovers' Club of Brooklyn, mention was made of the fact that two members of the Club, Lester Walsh and Mr. Hesselbach, are serving their country in France. It was therefore voted that the club should procure a service flag.

Visitors to the Library look with interest upon a silken emblem decorated with two stars, and labelled "The Bird Lovers' 'Bit'." On the wall underneath the flag hangs a copy of the poem entitled "The Service Flag" framed in patriotic colors.

During the summer, many requests have been received from educational institutions and individuals for copies of our printed list "Some Nature Books for Mothers and Children." While our supply is getting low, we have been able to send one or more copies to each inquirer, thus far.

Among the recipients are the following: the Public Library, Mason City, Iowa; the New York State Library School, Albany, New York; and the State Normal School, Bridgewater, Massachusetts. The Michigan State Normal College, Ypsilanti, Michigan wished to have a dozen copies; and The State Normal School, Geneseo, New York, asked, "Is it possible to get these lists in great quantities for distribution among students?"

The latest inquiry has come from the Museum of Natural History, Springfield, Massachusetts, in this wise: "At our request for your list Some Nature Books for Mothers and Children, you kindly sent us a copy with the compliments of your museum."

"It is an excellent list and so well suited to our needs that we plan to assemble on tables during the month of September a number of the books listed, and we should like to call the attention of parents to these helpful lists. Have you twenty-five copies available so that we could purchase from you?"

The Library has recently been honored by a call from Mr. Ernest J. Reece, Principal of the Library School of the New York Public Library. Several junior students in his school, who are especially interested in children's work, paid us a visit of inspection, a few weeks earlier.

Miss Draper found much pleasure in visiting libraries and museums during her vacation. Among them were the Public Library, the John Carter Brown Library, the John Hay Memorial Library, the Park Museum, and the Rhode Island School of Design, all in the City of Providence. The Children's Museum of Boston, and the Waltham and Medford Public Libraries should also be mentioned.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

October 1 How Cattle are Raised
8 The Story of a Grain of Wheat (Motion picture)
15 Coal Mining
22 Lumbering
29 Cotton Culture **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **Plants and Their Uses** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

October 2 Plants in the Hot Belt
9 Plants in the Warm Belt
16 The Baby Parade (Motion picture)
23 Plants in the Cool Belt
30 Plants in the Northern Cold Belt **M. D. Lee**

Grade 8A or 8B: **Magnetism and Electricity** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

October 3 Natural and Artificial Magnets
10 Properties of Magnets
17 Terrestrial Magnetism
24 How Electricity is Produced by Friction
31 The Leyden Jar and Other Condensers **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

October 4 Interesting Objects in the Museum and Motion Picture
11 Northern France
18 Southern France
25 Paris, Versailles, and Fontainebleau **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

October 5 Motion Picture
12 Special Lecture—*See below*
19 Motion picture
26 Motion picture **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Seed Pods and Seeds** Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

October 5 Where Seed Pods are Made
12 Special Lecture—*See below*
19 How Seeds are Fertilized
26 The Distribution of Seeds **A. B. Gallup**

Special Lecture

For all Grades: 10:30 A. M. and 2:30 P. M.

October 12 Life of Columbus (Motion Picture) **M. D. Lee**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

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Children's Museum, Bedford Park

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VOL. VI. BROOKLYN, N. Y., NOVEMBER 1918 No. 2

MODEL OF THE HEAD OF A POISONOUS VIPER

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SNAKES IN THE MUSEUM

Poisonous and Otherwise

The latest addition to the live stock of the Museum consists of four small hog-nosed snakes and a young garter snake. The mere fact that they are snakes and alive, together with their attractive markings and graceful movements, always keeps a group of interested youngsters around their cage. They are all perfectly harmless, although the hog-nosed snake has various sinister sounding nicknames such as "flat-headed adder" and "sand-viper." This is because it assumes a terrifying aspect when attacked, flattening its head, puffing out its neck and hissing violently—all merely a "bluff" to frighten off intruders.

There is a great fascination in watching the tiny, forked tongues of the snakes dart in and out with quivering rapidity. The tongues are remarkable organs, for the nerves at the tip are so sensitive that they not only help the snake to feel objects but also to detect sounds. A snake thus "hears with its tongue" since its ears are practically worthless. The tongue of a snake is often wrongly called its "stinger." The large model of a viper's head in the Type Room shows the real poison apparatus of the snake. In each cheek there is a poison gland; when the muscles controlling the gland are contracted, the poison flows through a narrow tube into the large fangs, one on each side of the upper jaw. The poison is injected into any animal bitten by the snake, through tiny openings in the fangs.

Right below the model is a handsome specimen of the diamond-back rattlesnake of the South, the most deadly snake in the United States. It is over five feet long and has eleven rattles on the tip of its tail. In the main hall of the Museum is a collection of the snakes of Long Island and New York City and vicinity. There are only two poisonous species among them; the banded rattlesnake, while very dangerous has neither so deadly a bite nor so vicious a temper as the diamond-back; the copper-head though it has smaller fangs than the rattlesnake, is just as poisonous.

The copper-head and rattlesnake are the only poisonous snakes in this vicinity; none of the others have either poison glands or fangs. There are no poisonous snakes on Long Island. The black snake, needlessly feared because of its size, has a harmless bite; it does a great deal of good in destroying rats and other rodents which eat up the farmer's grain. Most of our snakes are the objects of such ridiculous fears or superstitions that they are destroyed at every opportunity. Although no snake likes milk, the so-called "milk" snake is accused of stealing a

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drink of milk from the cows while gliding about the barns in search of mice and rats. Our perfectly innocent water snake is often mistaken for the deadly water moccasin of the South. Even such familiar animals as the garter snake and brown snake often set people to flight by their mere appearance. A greater familiarity with the appearance and economic value of the harmless Long Island snakes would do away with the feeling that every gliding form in the grass is a dreaded "rattler" and would destroy any satisfaction of stoning or beating to death useful creatures.

C. R.

MOTION PICTURES

The motion pictures are sources of both pleasure and benefit to the children who visit the Museum. They are selected with care for their educational value.

On Columbus Day, October 12, a three reel film depicting the life and adventures of Columbus was shown. A very popular reel is the Ride of Paul Revere. The children display much enthusiasm throughout the picture, but unbounded joy when the farmers rise up from their place of concealment behind the farm yard wall to meet the Red Coats with a volley from their antiquated guns.

A film of The Lady of the Lake was enjoyed by classes with their teachers, numbering 750 pupils, from six different schools. Also a film loaned by the Fire Department was greatly appreciated.

During the summer an entertainment was held once a week with films loaned by the Y.M.C.A. These depicted travel and industries.

We are now on a circuit and receive reels once a week from a bureau in Washington. These pictures are shown every Saturday at 10:30 A. M. Although we have a general idea of what we will receive and know the subjects two weeks in advance, we are unable to secure them in time to publish them in the News.

On October 19, the picture was on the Progress Among the Indians, made by the United States Indian Bureau; on October 26, The Top of the World—the Canadian Rockies, and the Manufacture of Cloth in Argentine.

As shown in the Lecture Schedule on the last page of this issue, a patriotic film will be run on Election Day. The subject is The Star Spangled Banner: When and How it was Written. This photo play depicts many interesting events of the War of 1812, and shows how Lieutenant Robert Key went on board a British ship under a flag of truce, how he was held until after the battle, and how with anxious heart he watched the bombardment of Fort McHenry and was inspired to write the words of our National Song.

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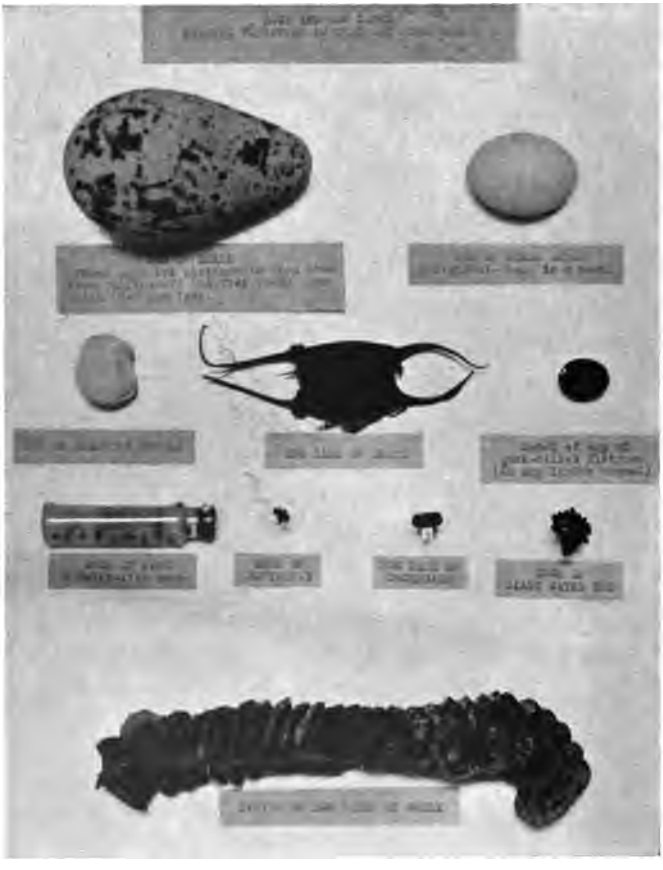
EGGS AND EGG CASES

One of the newest exhibits in the Children's Museum is a case between the Type Room and the Busy Bee Room containing a collection of eggs and egg cases. These represent a great variety of animals from the duckbill, an egg-laying mammal, to the butterfly and roach. The



EGGS AND EGG CASES IN THE TYPE ROOM

birds' eggs are, of course, the most familiar to us; of these the murre's egg is so shaped that it cannot roll off the flat rocks on which it is laid, while the little green heron's egg is perfectly oval since it is laid safe in a nest where there is no danger of rolling out.

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The eggs of the two sea animals shown are well protected by strong coverings. The skate's eggs are enclosed in leathery, brown cases which become attached to sea weed by means of the threads on each corner. The whelk has about one hundred and fifty flat, sand-colored discs fastened on one long stalk; if one of these cases is opened, the tiny shells of at least a dozen little whelks are found inside.

The frog does not enclose its eggs in a case of any kind, but surrounds them with a mass of white jelly which soon becomes protectively colored with the dirt of the pond in which they float. The snapping turtle, a water animal, goes on shore to lay its eggs which are white, thin shelled spheres buried in the moist ground.

Three kinds of insect eggs are shown. The butterfly attaches her little, round eggs to the underside of a leaf and leaves them there to hatch, but the giant water bug deposits a layer of eggs on the back of her unwilling mate so that he is forced to carry them about until they hatch. The cockroach's eggs are enclosed in a small, brown capsule like a bean pod.

Probably the most unusual of the eggs shown is that of the duckbill, since very few mammals lay eggs at all. This little, yellow egg only an inch long belongs to a furry animal over a foot in length. It is laid in a burrow in the bank of some stream where the mother keeps it warm with the heat of her body just as a bird takes care of its eggs.

LOANS

Lately the Museum was asked to furnish an ostrich's eye to be used in a school play. Unfortunately neither one of the two eyes of our mounted ostrich was "to lend" greatly to the disappointment of the young actor who needed such an object to perfect his equipment.

Another day, a request came for a "stuffed eagle" and although we have two fine specimens, representing two different species, we couldn't lend either. We hope, however, our visitors will not be discouraged—it is only now and then that a body needs either an ostrich's eye or a "stuffed eagle"—while the more common things such as butterflies, familiar song birds, minerals, charts, and pictures are wanted every day by some good Nature Study teacher.

The Museum has a great many objects it will be glad to lend which are obtainable upon request. Teachers may inspect them any day after school.

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OBSERVATIONS

A twelve year old was listening to a conversation between the Docent and some very young children. The little people were alert, interested, and asking questions eagerly when the older boy interrupted, "The little fellows take more interest than we big fellows. The trouble is we are ashamed to ask, but the little fellows they got pluck."

The Museum Type Collection illustrates the development of animal life from the lowest to the highest forms. Beginning with pictures of Protozoa, the series finally ends with the skeleton of a man.

One day a member of the staff was explaining the skeleton to a group of children, when a little girl asked—"Was he one time a real man?" "Yes," said the instructor, "Well," responded the child, "Wasn't it nice he died smiling."

FROM A LIVELY SECTOR

One of our Museum boys, a First Class Sergeant of Company A, 302 Field Signal Battalion, writes occasionally of his life as a soldier on the Western Front. His first experience with the enemy occurred on shipboard when a torpedo gave rise to events that he could not recount in his letters, but of later happenings on land he writes more fully. In his latest letter, he says in part, "Just at present we are up in the front line in a very lively sector. Shells are whizzing back and forth all day long. We give the Germans from two to five shells every time they send one over. We have them worried I take it from what the prisoners say. We captured a bunch the other day. They are an ugly looking lot, and they look their part,—slaves to their government. "My radio is located in a dugout underground, well protected from shells. * * * * *

"Our division has been traveling around a great deal, from one sector to another. Everywhere the American army goes we clean up, for our modern ideas and thought prevent us from drifting into century old ruts. I think our modern ways will awaken the Europeans and give them a different light. The American Army, newly born, is the greatest army of all and will prove to be the David that will kill the German Goliath."

CHANGE OF MUSEUM HOURS

Until further notice, the Museum will be open to the public daily from 10:00 A. M. to 5:00 P. M.

This change of hours has been forced upon us by the need of care in drawing upon our supply of coal. It is hoped that by saving two hours of heat each day, we shall be able to avoid closing our building at any time during the winter months.

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LIBRARY NOTES

Several of the more attractive posters pertaining to the Fourth Liberty Loan, which have been provided by patriotic headquarters and individual donors, are now being displayed in the Library. Among the most forceful are Pennell's "That Liberty Shall Not Perish From the Earth," Christy's "Clear the Way, Buy Bonds," Whitehead's "Come On, Buy More Liberty Bond," and "I'd Like To Be There."

Series of postal cards and small pictures representing Scenes in France during the present war have been received as a gift from the Children's Museum of Boston. A portion of the pictures have been mounted on cardboard, forming an interesting bulletin, which is appropriately decorated with the French colors. The beautiful poster "Joan of Arc Saved France" surmounts this collection of small views.

A package of cards, each containing a sectional map of Europe with the "Present Battle Line" outlined in red ink, has been sent to us for distribution by the Liberty Loan Committee of the Second Federal Reserve District. These little maps have not only been of general interest to the children, but in several cases have proved to be of decided value. For example, a High School girl, after carefully preparing a lecture to be given to her class about the "Changes in the Western Front During the Past Two Months," asked for thirty small maps to distribute to her class, so that the members might easily follow her as she talked to them. In like manner, Miss Longstreet, when escorting a part of her 8A class of girls from Public School Number 64, secured enough maps for her class to use in the study of Current Events at school. The teacher proposed having the pupils indicate the advances made by Allied Armies from day to day, and thus keep the maps up to date.

One day a young lad in the fifth grade of a public school smilingly asked the librarian, "Have you a book about my size?" The reply was "Yes,—Do you like to read stories about King Arthur and his knights?" With eivdent satisfaction, the inquirer read several stories in the book of "Famous Legends," and seemed to feel that the volume was indeed the right *size* for him. Before he had finished reading, he pointed to this sentence: "To the surprise of all the forest rovers and their bold leader, the king cried, "It is King Richard who stands before you!" Then our young friend Clifford asked, "Who was it who said 'A horse! a horse! my kingdom for a horse!' " Listeners to this query were also interested to learn that this was another King of the same name, King Richard III.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

November 5 Special Lecture—*See below*

Wonders of Nature

12 Falls and Rapids
19 Gorges and Canons
26 Glaciers — **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **Bird Life** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

November 6 The Migration of Birds
13 Birds that Stay with Us in Winter
20 Birds of Prey
27 Water Birds — **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Electricity** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

November 7 Insulators and Conductors
14 Electric Machines
21 Atmospheric Electricity — **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of Japan** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

November 1 Cities of Japan
8 Country Life in Japan
15 Industries of Japan
22 Japanese Children
29 Special Lecture—*See below* — **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

November 2 Motion Picture
9 Motion Picture
16 Motion Picture
23 Motion Picture
30 Motion Picture — **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Nature's Preparations for Winter** Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

November 2 In the Plant World
9 Among Insects
16 Among Reptiles
23 How Birds Prepare
30 How Mammals Prepare — **A. B. Gallup**

For all Grades: **Special Lectures** 10:30 A. M. and 2:30 P. M.

November 5 The Star Spangled Banner (Motion Picture) **M. D. Lee**
29 The Pilgrim Fathers **A. B. Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.00 P.M.

VOL. VI. BROOKLYN, N. Y., DECEMBER 1918 No. 3

The Busy Bee Room once the conservatory of the Adams Mansion (the Children's Museum) now invested with some of its former glory through the generosity of Mrs. Benjamin Prince

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A WIDELY APPRECIATED GIFT

A great deal of pleasure has been expressed by our visitors in noting the bright and cheery aspect given to the Museum by the wealth of potted plants standing in windows and other nooks and corners of the exhibition rooms. Indeed many of our friends have seemed to feel a beckoning welcome from the blaze of color looking out upon them as they follow the walks leading through the park to the Museum.

They may perhaps agree with the quotation in the Botany Collection by Dante Gabriel Rossetti, "Flowers preach to us if we will hear." At any rate the unspoken language of beauty, variety, and interest seems to be so generally understood, that a large harvest of happiness and enjoyment is gathered every day.

This collection of living plants comprises several varieties of ferns, among which is one of the bird's nest variety nearly three feet in diameter; a number of begonias, the most beautiful of which is a specimen with velvety, red and green leaves; several varieties of Dracaena and a number of palms. There is also a ginger plant with leaves that yield a pungent fragrance when bruised, a variegated pineapple of delicate hues, and the gorgeous Jerusalem Cherry with its bright red fruits. The presence of so many varieties of living plants has afforded our little people material for botany lessons that they will never forget. The plants are the gift of Mrs. Benjamin Prince who dismantled her greenhouse in September in order to help the United States Fuel Administration in saving coal for those who need it in their homes.

A PROMOTION

Austen Curtiss, the first boy who studied Wireless Telegraphy in the Children's Museum announced in his last letter, dated at Paris, that he had been promoted to the rank of Captain in the Radio Corps of the United States Army. Captain Curtiss has the congratulations of his friends in Brooklyn who have watched his career as a Wireless expert with unfailing interest.

ON DECEMBER SIXTH

There will be no lecture on the above date. The officers and Executive Board of the Woman's Auxiliary have issued invitations to members of the Woman's Auxiliary, Presidents of Women's Clubs, and other friends of the Museum for a reception. At the hour when lectures are usually in progress, the Lecture Room will be used for a social gathering and the serving of refreshments. The children surely will not object to omitting a lecture for one day in the year. The Auxiliary has contributed so much joy and happiness to their other days, that they will consider it an honor to have their quarters used to extend the work of the Auxiliary.

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NOVEMBER THE ELEVENTH

For the first time in its history the Children's Museum observed a holiday by closing its doors to the public.

The ringing of bells and blowing of whistles were still in progress heralding the dawn of Peace, when the employees of the Museum reported for duty. By eleven o'clock, however, it was apparent that the children as well as the grown folks of Brooklyn were not going to waste any time staying indoors. The sidewalks and streets were too alluring for parading and cheering.

Accordingly a holiday was declared, large placards announcing the closing of the Museum were placed at the North and South entrances, and members of the staff and force departed to add their contribution to the expressions of gladness and thanksgiving to which the whole day was given.

THE TREE CLUB DRIVE

On Monday, December 9, instead of the regular meeting of the Childrens Museum League at 4 o'clock, there will be a joint meeting of the League and Tree Club members to inaugurate a Tree Planting Drive. As everyone familiar with the Museum knows, the Tree Club is the Junior League of the American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees; the boys and girls belonging to it promise "to study, to protect, and to help plant trees." To carry out the tree planting part of their pledge, they have always saved all their newspapers, magazines, tinfoil, old rubber, and metal to bring to the Museum, and by the sale of these materials, they have earned money with which to buy trees.

The young Oriental Sycamore trees bordering Albany Avenue from St. John's Place to Dean Street have been either bought by the Tree Club outright, or planted through their influence.

The Tree Club is now eager to finish its work on Albany Avenue by supplying trees for the blocks between Dean Street and Atlantic Avenue in time for the spring planting. In order to advertise the plan for saving newspapers, magazines, old rubber, and tinfoil, an interesting motion picture on trees will be shown at the December 9 meeting. Members of the Tree Club and the Museum League who wish to see it, can obtain admission by presenting a slip at the Lecture Room door which proves that they have contributed paper or other material to the Tree Club that day. At the meeting, they will hear in detail how they can share in the Tree Club's plan of helping to beautify Brooklyn.

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THE HOOPER MEMORIAL STAMP FUND

On a table in the Bird Room, there is now standing a beautiful case borrowed from the Field Museum of Chicago. It contains a family of least bitterns and shows the nest with the young and old birds in their natural surroundings of water and marsh grass. This case is one of the kind which the Franklin W. Hooper Memorial Fund is to purchase for the loan collection which will be sent to all the schools of Brooklyn.

This particular spot in the Museum is the headquarters for a lively business every afternoon when the children come from school. A member of the Woman's Auxiliary, which is raising the fund, is always stationed here and boys and girls swarm around her in order to get cards of patriotic stamps to sell, or to bring in a handful of nickels for cards already sold. On each card are eight stamps with such pictures as the "Spirit of '76," "Washington Crossing the Delaware," Paul Revere, and John Paul Jones. On the back of the card is a printed explanation of the purpose of the Memorial Fund. The cards are sold for five cents apiece; half of the money is used for the Loyal League of the Daughters of the Revolution which furnishes the stamps, and half for the Memorial Fund.

Children who have enjoyed the advantages of the Museum for a number of years are eager to have its benefits extended by means of loans to other districts whose children cannot often visit the Museum itself. They are working energetically and helpfully to contribute what they can to the success of the fund. Already they have paid in over one hundred twenty-five dollars. An active committee composed of Elmer Janes, William Hill, and Aaron Scarl insure the prompt return of money or unsold cards by a systematic canvass of any children who have been lax or careless after assuming responsibility for the stamps.

Every child who sells one hundred cards is rewarded with a box of three pencils on which his name is printed in gilt letters. There is a cash prize for all who sell five hundred cards, while everyone who sells four hundred cards is invited to a party to be given later. The following children have each sold one hundred or more cards of stamps:

Solomon Goldstein, 276 Troy Avenue

Sarah Wolk, 271 Troy Avenue

Irving Saunders, 1284 St. John's Place

Gerald Lesser, 838 Park Place

Sidney Charlat, 1025 Prospect Place

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A COLLECTION OF MOTION PICTURE FILMS

The Museum is fortunate in having been able to acquire a number of motion picture films. A New York firm, retiring from business, disposed of these pictures at a very low figure enabling us to buy some of the reels which related to Natural History and Travel.

One of the films depicts a polar bear hunt in the Arctic. The mother bear is seen, in the water, defending her cubs from the hunters in a small boat. A film on Bird Life shows the Penguins and their peculiar habits, the Kingfisher, Solan Geese, or "Malagas" on Malagas Island, where it is estimated that 400,000 birds live in an area of 300 square yards, and many other interesting birds.

There are also films on flowers, Lumbering, the Silkworm, Lobsters, Crabs, an Electric Fish, Japan, Colorado, Hawaii, Yosemite Valley, and the Yellowstone National Park.

With such a collection, the permanent property of the Museum, it will be possible for us to exhibit motion pictures to visiting classes upon request of teachers, provided requests are made two days before the film is to be shown.

SPECIAL LECTURES RESUMED

Now that the War is over and the "Flu" scare has subsided, the Museum is beginning to note a gradual return to normal conditions.

Out of the large number of special lectures that were called off indefinitely by the Board of Education, sixteen have been placed again on the schedule for December and January.

AN IMPROVEMENT IN THE LECTURE ROOM

A Colonial fan twenty-four inches in diameter and driven by a one fourth horse power motor is now operating successfully in the Lecture Room. This fan exhausts five thousand cubic feet of air per minute. It requires only a minute and a half to change the atmosphere of the Lecture Room completely. As a result of this arrangement, lectures can be given in a darkened room without causing any discomfort whatever to visitors.

PUBLICATIONS

The printer has been delivering as rapidly as possible the folders containing outlines of courses of study which our children follow in earning certificates of credit. At the present time we have for free distribution folders on Aquarium Study, Mineral Study, Insect Study, Bird Study, Botany, History, and Geography.

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LIBRARY NOTES

The Library has purchased a beautiful set of books in six volumes, called the "Nature Lovers Library," which was published in 1917 by the University Society. Three volumes are devoted to the Birds of America, and one volume to the Mammals of America. Volume V. is devoted to the Mammals of Other Lands, and the last volume treats of the Birds of Other Lands, Reptiles, Fishes, and Lower Forms.

The text is written by authorities in the different fields, Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson serving as Editor-in-Chief of the section devoted to Birds. The set is illustrated by numerous photographs from life, and includes many excellent colored plates by such artists as R. I. Brasher, Bruce Horsfall, Henry Thurston, and Carl Rungius.

It was a pleasure for us to welcome Edmund Behrand, who has been serving his country on board a United States Cruiser for more than a year. During this time, he has been stationed at Gibraltar and the Azores Islands, and he expects to return soon to foreign waters. From his personal observation of French, Italian, and British soldiers, he was able to be of some assistance to an artist who was making sketches of a Canteen in France, and of soldiers of different nations. Having inherited a love of the sea from his father who was a sea-captain, Edmund has spent many hours here during his boyhood and youth reading stories of life on the ocean, including Admiral Evan's "A Sailor's Log," Dana's "Two Years Before the Mast," Nordhoff's "Whaling and Fishing," and Holder's "Along the Florida Reef," and "Big Game at Sea."

We have been favored by a visit from Miss Clara W. Hunt, Superintendent of the Children's Department of the Brooklyn Public Library, and her class of students who are training to become children's librarians. Miss Hunt stated that she was introducing her class to the Children's Museum at the very beginning of their nine months' course of study, in order that they might have ample opportunity to become familiar with this branch of work with children.

The Library has been represented of late at several interesting functions, as follows: On an ideal October day, a most enjoyable meeting of the New York Library Club, held at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; October 27, the opening of the Exhibition of Russian paintings at the Brooklyn Museum, preceded by a concert of Russian music; and on the evening of Hallowe'en, a reception given by the Graduates Association to the Class of 1919 of the Pratt Institute School of Library Science.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Our Southern Neighbors** Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

December 3 Jamaica
10 Cuba
17 Bermuda the Beautiful **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **Trees** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

December 4 How Trees Grow
11 How to Protect Trees
18 The Uses of Trees **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Electricity** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

December 5 How Cells are Made and Used
12 The Effects of an Electric Current
19 Electromagnetism **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **The Hawaiian Islands** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

December 6 *No Lecture*
13 Customs of Hawaii — Motion Picture
20 Volcanoes of Hawaii — Motion Picture **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

December 7 Motion Picture
14 Motion Picture
21 Special Lecture—*See below* **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

Farthest North and Farthest South

December 7 Animals and Birds of the Polar Regions — Motion Picture
14 Life Among the Esquimaux — Motion Picture
21 Special Lecture—*See below* **A. B. Gallup**

For all Grades: **Special Lectures** 10:30 A.M. and 2:30 P.M.

December 21 Marley's Ghost **A. B. Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

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VOL. VI. BROOKLYN, N. Y., JANUARY 1919 No. 4

Exhibit in the Insect Room showing Dead Leaf Butterfly and Walking Leaf Insect of India.

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CAMOUFLAGE IN THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Those of us who have just learned to use the word "camouflage" during the past four years are apt to think of it as something invented duing the recent war. The use of the word itself probably is new; it originally meant "to blow smoke in one's face" and the idea of blinding or confusion connected with that, easily led to its present meaning, which every child knows. But the concealment of an army by making it resemble some natural object is much older. You can find a good example of it in Shakespeare's play of "Macbeth" where the Scotch Prince Malcolm ordered every soldier in his army to carry a branch of a tree before him so that the whole army looked liked a moving forest and the actual number of men was hidden from the enemy.

This happened way back in 1057. But for thousands of years before that, the theory of camouflage was being practiced in the armies of the woods, the fields, and the seashore. Nature was the first general to dress her children in uniforms that matched their surroundings, so that they would have some protection in their warfare against each other. A glance through the rooms of the Children's Museum will furnish us with some striking examples of such animals. A man camouflaged as a tree is no more curious a sight than the walking-leaf insect of India whose bright green wings and flattened legs and head are veined to imitate leaves perfectly. A walking stick is such an exact duplicate of the twig to which it clings that it can hardly be seen. The dead leaf butterfly of India and our own hop merchant and violet tip match the dry leaves of the woods when their wings are folded. The mottled upper wings of the larger owlet moths cloak the brighter under wings so effectively that the insect seems to be a portion of the tree trunk on which it rests during the day.

The whip-poor-will too can press close against the limb of a tree and rely upon his mottled feathers to hide him from enemy observation while he sleeps. The group of woodcock in the Room of Animal Homes shows how closely the shaded brown feathers of these birds blend with the woodland carpet of dead leaves and dry sticks; you can scarcely see the downy baby birds which are tucked away in the hollow of a lichen-grown log. The stripes in the chipmunk's brown fur make him less conspicuous as he runs in and out of his burrow, storing food for the winter. One of his enemies is the owl who is also camouflaged in grays and browns, not so much for protection, as to be able to make a surprise attack on some other animal.

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The fields, as well as the woods, have their camouflaged inhabitants such as the sparrows, whose streaked backs safeguard them as they pick up weed seeds in the dry grass. Some of the sand-colored host of seashore dwellers can be seen in the Museum too. The birds are represented by the sandpipers and by the Arctic tern whose young and eggs are speckled and gray like the pebbles and sand on which they lie. Among the insects are the dusty sea-shore grasshoppers and the tiger beetles with pale wing covers delicately etched in black.

GROUP OF WOODCOCK RESTING ON A FOREST FLOOR.
SEE IF YOU CAN FIND THE YOUNG ONES.

You will notice that not one of these camouflaged animals is of a plain, solid color but that its outline is broken by streaks or spots of blending colors. Contrary to our expectation, a plain gray sandpiper would stand out much more distinctly against the sand than one with a dark back and light gray underparts; just as a woodcock with plumage of an unbroken brown would be more easily spied in the woods than one of varied colors. And so in changing the plain, trim gray of his battleships to grotesque zigzags and splotches of color and in covering his guns with mottled screens, man has only been borrowing a custom which Nature has long found practical in her realm.

C. R.

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A NEW EXHIBIT

An exhibit of tapa cloth together with a beater used in its manufacture and seven patterned reeds or printing sticks, with which a color design was applied, has been added to the Geography Collection. It relates to the model "The Return of the Fishermen: a Common Sight in the South Sea Islands," for, in older times the clothing worn by such men was doubtless of tapa cloth. Tapa making was an art common among the Polynesian Islanders and carried to the highest degree of excellence by the painstaking Hawaiian women, whose best tapas were little, if any, inferior to the fine cotton fabrics that have entirely displaced them. For so completely has the art and manufacture disappeared that the implements used are only to be seen in museums while the technique must be gleaned from the records of early missionaries and teachers.

Seven native plants and later the introduced paper mulberry entered into the composition of this cloth. Mulberry was cultivated in extensive groves planted about nearly every native home. The young plant was carefully trimmed to a single shoot that was allowed to reach a height of ten or twelve feet and a diameter of an inch or two. Then men cut the plants and women stripped the bark off in a single piece by splitting it from end to end. The inner, fibrous portion was chosen, rolled endways into a disk-like bundle, left to dry until it had taken a flat surface, placed in water until covered with a mulcilaginous coating, then put on a prepared stone or log and beaten with a series of round or square hardwood sticks in order to weld together the strips of raw material. These were laid side by side, doubled, pounded, and manipulated until the edges united, the mass being kept saturated with water during the process. Sheets double the size of an ordinary blanket were made in this way, the water mark in the fibre as well as the texture and thickness being regulated by the amount of beating and the character and marking of the beater used. When finished the cloth was spread in the sun to dry. Three or four days were required to beat an average size tapa which lasted about a month.

The dyes were mostly of vegetable origin with a few derived from mineral or animal sources. The colors were frequently mixed with Kukui nut oil. The pattern was cut on a strip of bamboo which was then dipped into the dye and pressed onto the cloth. Occasionally color was applied by a string snapped like a chalk line. Both methods appear in the designs shown. Tapas could be made quite waterproof by saturating them with cocoanut oil, and certain fine tapas were delicately perfumed. This cloth was always made in a special house where its own special gods presided over the work. The above information was taken from

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an interesting new book in the Museum Library, "Natural History of Hawaii," by Prof. William Alanson Bryan of the College of Hawaii.

The fine exhibit occupies a large case in the upper hall, near the south entrance to the History Collection rooms. The examples of tapa cloth comprise a blanket size piece and two suits of women's costume, and a girdle printed in geometric design, the gift of Mr. Fred S. Reed. The tapa beater, of the square type, and the printing sticks, were presented by Miss Kate B. Longworth.

A RECEPTION

The first event of this winter connecting the Museum with the social life of our Borough was a reception given by the President and Executive Board of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum on the afternoon of December the sixth.

It brought together a large number of notable citizens of Brooklyn prominent in the club and social world. For this afternoon the whole Museum was thrown open to the guests. Friends and strangers met the receiving party in the double Bird Room of the first floor. After that, they were conducted through the exhibition rooms, by members of the Social Aid Committee of the Woman's Auxiliary, and to the Lecture Room where they saw motion pictures of the Baby Parade and of the production and distribution of the Loan Collection circulated to the Chicago Schools from the Field Museum of Natural History. Refreshments were served in the Library, and the offices of the building were thrown open for the comfort and convenience of the guests. Music was furnished by the Banjo Club of Boys High School and by Mrs. Shanna Cumming Jones who led in the singing of patriotic airs.

One noticable tendency of the guests was that of settling in groups here and there, where chairs were available, and visiting. Many of them afterwards characterized the afternoon as a "homey" time. Perhaps that expresses it better than could any longer description. At any rate it is the feeling appropriate for a Children's Museum and one that the children always share. If the grown ups caught the spirit, they were paid for coming.

PUBLICATIONS

The folder containing an outline of a Course on Animal Study has come from the press thus completing the series of eight folders. Copies of any or all of these folders are at the Museum for free distribution.

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A ROSE-BREASTED COCKATOO

Cacatua roseicapillas, Vieillot

The newest pet in the Children's Museum is a rose-breasted cockatoo, presented by Mr. Edgar De Paug of 31 McDougal Street, Brooklyn. The bird arouses a great deal of admiration with his gorgeous, rose-colored breast, deep rose head surmounted by a pale pink crest, and pearly gray back and wings. This beauty, coupled with many amusing antics, makes the cockatoo's cage in the Busy Bee Room the constant centre of a group of visitors. His pompous attitude while strutting around his cage, has led some of the boys to dub him "Napoleon."

An observation of Napoleon has been instructive as well as amusing to the children, for they have noticed several interesting characteristics of parrots in general. They have seen how easily he can climb about his cage because his feet have two toes in front and two behind, like the woodpecker's feet, and because his bill serves as an ever ready hook in assisting him. In watching him crush seeds, they have discovered that he can move his upper as well as his lower mandible, something which very few birds can do, since most of them have the upper part of the jaw unjointed just as in human beings.

A STAMP BEE

Every one of the patriotic stamps used on souvenir cards, now being sold to raise money for the Franklin W. Hooper Memorial Fund, has to be attached by hand. Early in December the Committee of the Women's Auxiliary in Charge of the Stamp Fund were confronted with the task of "sticking" forty thousand of those stamps. The best way of getting the work done seemed to be to have a stamp bee. Accordingly the Bird Room was cleared of cases, furnished with a rug, chairs, and tables, and for one afternoon occupied by fifteen members of the Auxiliary and several members of the Daughters of the Revolution who are interested in the Fund. Advantage was taken of the voluntary assistance of many League Members who had been active in stamp selling. A happy afternoon of profitable conference and industry gave to every guest a feeling of achievement.

The younger members were not slow in appreciation of the bonbons and tea served by the hostesses of the day, Mrs. Don. C. Seitz and Mrs. J. J. Schoonhoven.

On December 21, a party was given by Mrs. Chester McKay of the Woman's Auxiliary to twenty children who had sold 100 or more Hooper Memorial cards. These young guests were entertained by a committee in charge of the day and by a motion picture.

Refreshments and favors were enjoyed in the Geography Room.

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LIBRARY NOTES

The December meeting of the Bird Lovers' Club of Brooklyn was unusually interesting. The program of the evening was arranged by the President, Miss Christine Ruth, and included an illustrated talk about "Hawks" given by Mr. Edward Fleischer. The customary interchange of observations of the birds seen in Prospect Park and vicinity was a pleasant feature in which many members of the club participated.

Several new members were present and a happy surprise was furnished by the unexpected appearance of two members from distant points, Mr. Henry V. Hesselbach (whose star is on the Service Flag of the Club), who for several months has been an instructor, with the rank of Second Lieutenant, of the United States Troops at Hampton Roads, and Mr. R. S. Corwin, formerly Assistant Curator of the Children's Museum, who has been serving the Government through the United States Fish Commission and has been located recently at Lake City, Minnesota, where he has found pleasure in raising fresh-water mussels for the pearl industry.

A brief, printed statement sometimes proves of value in unforeseen ways. For example, in a recent number of the Children's Museum News, we mentioned two cases in which the little maps of the "Present Battle Line" had been used to advantage by history classes in the public schools. Shortly after this note was printed, Miss Kaiser, a teacher of history in Public School No. 172, brought us her marked copy of the paper, at the same time asking for further information about the maps. Miss Kaiser was gratified to obtain about eighty copies of the maps, as aids to her own history classes.

Among the recent additions to the Library, which might be mentioned as especially desirable for Christmas gifts, are the following: Harry Lauder's "A Minstrel in France," Driggs' "Adventures of Arnold Adair, American Ace," and Hall's "High Adventure: a Narartive of Air Fighting in France."

Two books of great interest to girls are the charming "French Twins" by Lucy Fitch Perkins, and the suggestive manual "Girls' Clubs, Their Organization and Management."

Several small Hawaiian books have been received as a gift from Miss Kate B. Longworth. A quaint little primer entitled "Kumumua" was published at Honolulu in 1846. The illustrations are curious little woodcuts, which our young nature students may recognize as an owl, snake, deer, lion or goat, and familiar utensils such as a pail, hoe, tongs and bellows. The "Hawaiian Catechism" bears the imprint Oahu, 1842, and another small book contains "First Lessons in Arithmetic."

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Grades 7A or 7B: Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

January 7 Julius Caesar (Motion Picture)

Physical Geography

14 Causes of Wind and Rain
21 Ocean Movements
28 Plant Life **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **American History** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

January 8 The First Explorers
15 The Settlement of the Middle Atlantic States
22 The Colonization of New England
29 The French and Indian Wars **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

January 9 The Lady of the Lake (Motion Picture)

Electricity

16 The Telegraph
23 Electric Bells
30 Induction Coils **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of Europe** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

January 10 Belgium before the War
17 Former Industries of Belgium
24 Holland
31 Denmark **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

January 4 Swedish Life (Motion Picture)
11 Swedish Life (Motion Picture) cont.
18 Swedish Life (Motion Picture) cont.
25 Swedish Life (Motion Picture) cont. **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Coral and Coral Reefs** Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

January 4 The Coral Polyp
11 Varieties of Coral
18 Life on a Coral Reef
25 How Coral Reefs and Coral Islands are Formed **A. B. Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.00 P.M.

VOL. VI. BROOKLYN, N. Y., FEBRUARY 1919 No. 5

A NEW CHINESE MODEL

Coolie Carrying Bales of Merchandise through Streets of a City

"It would almost seem that the beholder can see him walk"

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CHINESE MODELS

Twelve miniature models of Chinese folk and industries, "made in China" by Chinese artists, have been presented to the Children's Museum by Mr. Clinton A. Bergstresser. They are of fine, white wood like orangewood or our own basswood and were purchased in a Chinese shop in Ningpo, China, which is devoted to the sale of handmade models in wood. The carving is marvelous—fine, but not too elaborate, yet all necessary detail is there. The features and characteristics of each person are individualized and there is remarkable showing of action. There are occasional touches of color, as on the cheeks or some hair ornament, or in picking out some item—as the tassels on the Mandarin's sedan chair. One model—the river boat—is painted in whole. The models are among the most attractive of recent gifts, and are, as one child said, "So tiny and dear you'd like to pat 'em."

The largest model measures 4⅞ inches by 6½ inches by 9⅞ inches, and belongs in a group of four relating to the rice industry. It shows two coolies, or workmen, pumping water into a rice field by foot power and will remind one who has been on a farm of the way horses are employed on a threshing machine. The first model of this rice group pictures the farmer ploughing the field with a carabao cow in harness instead of a horse. Then comes the pumping model, another in which a woman is seen winnowing rice, and the fourth, which shows the culmination of the industry; when a feast of rice, with meats and vegetables, is served to six people who are seated about a round table, each with spoon and chopsticks, just ready for a helping of the attractive food heaped in handsome dishes at the center of the table. One model is devoted to an elegant sedan chair such as is used for officials, in which is seated a Mandarin in handsome costume, who pays no attention to the four coolies who carry the chair by the long poles attached to its sides. Nor does a man in a rickshaw look at the coolie who is pulling that vehicle, although he is a good looking coolie and holds the carriage in correct position. Two coolies are seen singing and keeping step while they take through the city's streets a hugh bale of merchandise that is slung on a bamboo pole which rests on their shoulders. This particular bale contains tea. Perhaps the most effective of the coolie models shows one man carrying two smaller bales depending from a bamboo pole across his shoulder. It

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would almost seem that the beholder can see him walk. Of the women workers of China, one model shows two women weaving in a primitive form of loom a matting made of heavy grass. Another woman runs a small four-passenger river boat. The passengers have a matting awning to shield them from the weather, but the poor woman poling the boat has no such protection. A priest, however, has a large and handsome parasol and wears an odd hump in his dress, between the shoulders, just at the shoulder line. Parasol and hump designate his office. The above models are of various sizes, that of the priest being next to the smallest. It is fortunate that this last, least one, is less than two inches in dimension, for it pictures the only unpleasant sight in the series. It shows a prisoner seated by the wayside, in stocks—a sort of heavy collar made of wood and iron—as punishment for a crime whose nature is told in lettering on the collar. To be exact this model measures 1⅝ inches by 1 5/16 inches by 1 9/16 inches.

FARMER PLOUGHING RICE FIELD WITH CARABAO COW IN HARNESS

There is also one tiny model of a pagoda, such as is built near Canton, in South China. This is made of china. In addition to the models, Mr. Bergstresser gave a very interesting set of money scales, of a sort used in banks and by some merchants; a stylish parasol, a cheap toy, such as is sold on the streets, and a "prayer paper," all Chinese. His valuable gifts will be placed on exhibition early in the present month.

A. E. B.

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A GRIEVANCE AGAINST THE MUSEUM

On January 13, one of the school principals of our Borough called up and said—"I have a grievance against your Museum." This grievance was the outcome of a story told to the principal by some twenty pupils who had spent carfare and expended about one and a half hour's time to attend a lecture scheduled for that day on a subject which their class was at that time studying. These children arrived just in time to hear the notice, "No more seats in the Lecture Room." Already 150 children were packed in a lecture hall which seats comfortably only 100, while a sufficient number of children to fill the room again were holding places on "the line." It was impossible to give a second performance that afternoon as it took 45 minutes to run off the reel, consequently several hundred children were turned away in disappointment. Our record of attendance for that day was nearly 1300.

Similar complaints are often filed against this Museum, we are sorry to admit, because under present conditions we are unable to correct the causes for these grievances. Over and over again a teacher will say "Oh, I would like so much to see the picture on Miles Standish (or some other historical picture) but I can't reach the Museum in time to be admitted, owing to the waiting crowds." To such an one may we say here—that several of the school principals are cooperating with the Museum management by sending their classes for special lectures during the study periods as a part of the school work. This is an appreciated cooperation, and in a small measure helps to lessen the congestion after school hours when we have special lectures or moving pictures that relate to the school curricula.

Some day in the near future, we hope to be able to handle successfully, and satisfactorily to all, the thousands of children who eagerly seek admittance to our lectures, library, and exhibition rooms.

AN APPEAL FOR CORD

Readers, if you have no other use for the cord that comes around your grocery and other parcels or boxes that arrive at your home from various sources, will you please donate it to the Children's Museum? Our children are saving newspapers to sell for the Tree Club Fund. They bring these papers to the Museum daily in large quantities, but before any papers can be stored they have to be tied neatly in bundles. If we buy string or cord, which is now expensive, it will reduce the profits on the sale of papers. We know that a great deal of such material is thrown out by many housekeepers. If you can rescue some of it, the Tree Club will put it to good use in the work of planting trees in Brooklyn.

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ATTENDANCE

The Museum attendance in December 1918 was nearly 4,000 more than for the same period in 1917.

CHRISTMAS VACATION AT THE MUSEUM

The Christmas vacation was a time of great activity at the Museum, for the clear, crisp weather, with no snow on the ground to attract children to outdoor sports, favored the choice of the Museum as a recreation centre.

Many children seized the opportunity to work hard for "credits." Bird Study and Botany attracted numerous devotees, but by far the most attention was paid to Mineral Study. Determining the names of unlabeled minerals proved to be a fascinating game and at times precipitated heated discussions over the composition of certain specimens.

Some of the older boys asked for an opportunity to study Chemistry. On this account, the Lecture Room was turned into a Laboratory where simple tests were made.

The sale of Hooper Memorial stamps was brisk and productive through the efforts of many children to earn the privilege of attending the next Museum party.

HOLIDAYS IN FEBRUARY

The two holidays this month, Lincoln's Birthday and Washington's Birthday, are the busiest days of the year at the Museum.

As many as three thousand visitors have been recorded on one of these days. The lectures always attract large numbers. The morning lectures are the least crowded. We therefore suggest that as many children as possible come at that time. In any case *come early.*

FROM THE CHILDREN'S POINT OF VIEW

By far the greatest addition to the Museum, and especially to the Busy Bee Room, is the group of tiny, folding chairs and tables which may be carried to any case in any room upstairs or down. No longer will children have to stand up and lean against the polished glass or lie on the floors on their stomachs when they laboriously print the names of the birds and butterflies they have drawn. It is such a comfort not to have to stretch up to the big tables made for big folks!

A CHANGE IN THE STAFF

Miss Christine Ruth, after three years of successful work as Docent, has resigned in order to live nearer her home in Lebanon, Pennsylvania. The position is now being filled by Miss Grace Coit Meleney of Brooklyn.

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WOMAN'S AUXILIARY ANNUAL MEETING

The Annual Meeting and Luncheon of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum took place January 15, at the Hotel Bossert. Mrs. I. Sherwood Coffin, President, presided. The reports of the Standing Committees showed progress and development during the year 1918. Though a war year the interest in the Children's Museum had not relaxed. On the contrary, the Membership Committee, Mrs. J. Richard Taylor, Chairman, reported an increase in membership from 250 in January 1918 to 508 in January 1919. Great interest was expressed in the report of the Women's Clubs Committee of the Franklin W. Hooper Memorial, Mrs. Don. C. Seitz, Chairman, who reported about $800. contributed by Women's Clubs. She spoke also of the contribution made by the Museum children through the sale of stamp cards. The Social Aid Committee, Mrs. Susanne Q. Cumming, Chairman, reported the assistance given by her Committee at all the Auxiliary Teas and Receptions, and also a fund for lantern slides raised during the year. The Committee of the Red Cross Drive, Mrs. Chester McKay, Chairman, reported upon the Baby Parade of last May and the money realized for the Red Cross Fund. Luncheon was served at 12:30, followed by a brief program. Mme. Shanna Cumming Jones sang a group of songs. Mr. William H. Fox and Hon. David A. Boody were guests of honor, and both made short addresses. Estelle Duclo read her poem on Professor Hooper, and Mrs. William F. Eastman read one of her stories. Two hundred and seventy covers were laid for the luncheon and many organizations were represented.

A MEMORIAL TO FRANKLIN W. HOOPER

In the issue of January 4, 1919, the Bulletin of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences carries an illustrated article under the above heading. Commenting editorially upon the article the Bulletin says in part: "This proposed Memorial is a project conceived and fostered by the Woman's Auxiliary, and the appeal in its behalf is highly commended to the members of the Institute and to all citizens who appreciate the noble life and service it aims to perpetuate. Professor Hooper was a broad-visioned, forward-looking man, ever ready to incline his heart and hand to any enterprise for the enrichment of the life of the people. His name is writ large in all that stands for culture and education in Brooklyn. A Memorial such as is proposed by the Woman's Auxiliary would have warmed his heart, for he was a lover of nature in all her phases and a believer in the educational value of museum collections."

A reprint of this article has been issued by the Woman's Auxiliary and is for free distribution.

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LIBRARY NOTES

The month of December, 1918 was in several respects a notable period in the history of the Library, having a total attendance of 5,934. It proved to be the busiest month of December we have ever had, although our records have shown a larger number of visitors during certain of the Spring months.

Some interesting queries brought by readers may be worthy of note, viz: "What negro American, born a slave, became minister to Haiti in 1889?" "What was the cause of sending United States troops to Mexico in 1913-14?" "What is the origin of the French flag, and the meaning of its colors?" "Make a comparison of methods of warfare from medieval times to the present." "How many weather observers are there in the United States at the present time?"

A young girl stated that her teacher wished her to find a certain poem, which commenced with the word *In,* but she was unable to recall the author's name, the title of the poem, or its subject. By careful consultation of an Index to Poetry, some verses on the "Death of Washington" gave the desired clue, but unfortunately the Library could not furnish the complete poem.

Among the "children's heroes," the story of Joan of Arc has an important place. Like veneration should be felt for the life of Lafayette, who rendered invaluable service to our nation during the Revolution. The Library contains an attractive, little book called "Lafayette the Friend of American Liberty" by Alma H. Burton, with an excellent introduction by James Baldwin. Short stories about Lafayette may be found in the "Hero Stories from American History," "Fifty Famous People," "Stories of the Thirteen Colonies," "Revolutionary Stories from St. Nicholas," and many other books covering the period of the Revolution.

Several good pictures of the French patriot, together with accounts of his life and deeds are included in Ruoff's "Masters of Achievement," Avery's "History of the United States," and Duyckinck's "National Portrait Gallery."

The passing of Theodore Roosevelt has called the attention of children to another hero. On the afternoon of January 8, when public schools were closed as a tribute of respect to this great American citizen, several boys read the story about Roosevelt in the "Lives of the Presidents," and another boy read continuously the volume entitled "The American Boys' Life of Theodore Roosevelt."

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Wonders of the Sea** Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

February 4 Coral and Sponges
11 Starfish and Sea Urchins
18 Some Interesting Mollusks
25 Lobsters and Crabs **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **American History** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

February 5 Causes of the Revolution
12 Special Lecture—*See below*
19 Important Battles of the Revolution
26 The Close of the Revolution **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Electricity** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

February 6 Motors and Dynamos
13 Electric Lighting
20 The Telephone
27 X Rays **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of the United States** Fridays, 4:00 P.M.

February 7 Our Capital—Washington
14 Yellowstone National Park
21 California and the Yosemite Valley
28 The Grand Canyon of Colorado **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

February 1 Motion Picture
8 Motion Picture
15 Motion Picture
22 Special Lecture—*See below* **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Animals Warring and at Peace** Saturdays, 2:30 P.M.

February 1 Some Queer Trenches
8 Animal Submarines
15 Animal Airplanes
22 Special Lecture—*See below* **A. B. Gallup**

For All Grades: **Special Lectures** 10:30 A. M. and 2:30 P. M.

February 12 The Life of Abraham Lincoln (illustrated) **A. B. Gallup**
22 The Life of George Washington **M. D. Lee**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

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VOL. VI. BROOKLYN, N. Y., MARCH 1919 No. 6

THE TAJ MAHAL

An alabaster model presented to the Children's Museum by Mrs. William Victor Hirsch

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THE TAJ MAHAL

On the cover page of this number of the Children's Museum News, appears a picture of the Taj Mahal, placed there because a beautiful model of it will be found in what was formerly the Shell Room. This is the gift of Mrs. William Victor Hirsch, of Brooklyn, whose name is familiar to the children of this Museum.

The label prepared for this model says:

"The Taj Mahal, in Agra, Hindustan, was erected by Shah Jehan to the memory of his favorite queen, and it is the most magnificent tomb in the world. Octagonal in form, it is of pure white marble, inlaid with jasper, carnelian, turquoise, agate, amethysts, and sapphires. The work took 22,000 men 20 years to complete, and though the gems were free gifts and the labor was free, the cost was $16,000,000."

All these jewels, associated in wonderful designs, are indicated in color on the model, which is of alabaster, is 8½ inches high, and rests on a black marble base 9¾ inches square. Alabaster is a white or delicately tinted, fine grained gypsum, found in many parts of the world. This is made of the white variety and is of such choice quality that it is perhaps from the famous mine near Florence, Italy. Museum students of mineralogy will remember that there is a gypsum exhibit in the Mineral Room; that the snowy gypsum occurs in limestone near Lockport and at Camillus, Manlius, and Troy, New York, and that Alabaster is so soft it can be formed by the knife or lathe into objects of art. The inlaying of hard stones such as agates, carnelian, jasper, etc., in marble is known as "Agra work." Objects thus made are very costly.

Agra is an ancient city of India which gives its name to a district and division in the United Provinces. Like Delhi, it owes much of its importance in both historical and modern times to the commercial and strategical advantages of its position. It has a varied history. When it was captured in 1526 by the emperor Baber, the famous Koh-i-noor diamond was part of his loot. Those who observe the model of the Taj Mahal, may glance from the India case over to the center case in the exhibit room and there see the two models in glass of this noted diamond, the one showing it as Baber saw it and the other as it looks now after having been recut. It is one of the crown jewels of the British Empire and its models are in the collection of "Historical Diamonds," which was presented some time ago by the firm of William Wise and Sons, but which had to be retired for a while because of lack

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of space in the Mineral Room, where it properly belongs. This group of diamond models, in its present use, affords another instance of the adaptational value of good museum material.

Agra is noted for containing the most perfect specimens of Mogul architecture. It was Baber's grandson, Akbar, that built the present fort, whose strong and lofty walls of red sandstone are a mile and a half in circumference. The building was completed in 1665, when Charles II was on the throne of England and the plague was devastating London. Agra contains also the red stone palace which is considered the finest example of pure Hindu architecture, and the Moti Masjid or Pearl Mosque, which is an equally perfect example of Mahammedan style. But the glory of Agra is the Taj, "The most splendidly poetic building in the world," which has "been modelled and painted more frequently than any other building in the world, and the word pictures of it are numberless. But it can only be described as a dream in marble. It amply justifies the saying that the Moguls designed like Titans and finished like jewellers. In regard to color and design the Taj ranks first in the world for purely decorative workmanship; while the perfect symmetry of its exterior once seen can never be forgotten, nor the aerial grace of its domes, rising like marble bubbles into the azure sky," says the Encyclopedia Brittanica. The mausoleum was built in 1632 by Shah Jehan for his favorite wife, Mumtas Mahal. The emperor is also buried there. The Taj was designed by Ustad Isa, variously described as a Byzantine Turk and a native of Shiras, Persia.

THE TREE CLUB

Meetings Saturdays at 11:00 A. M.

Any one may join the Tree Club by bringing to the Museum newspapers and magazines, *neatly tied in bundles,* tinfoil, or rubber.

Two successful newspaper drives have yielded twelve hundred pounds of papers. We shall continue these drives until we have realized $45.00 needed for planting this Spring. Eighteen Red Oak trees will be planted on Saturday, March 22, 1919, as a Memorial to Theodore Roosevelt.

We wish to thank Mrs. W. T. Gardner for two things: first for reading the note in the Children's Museum News, Volume VI, No. 5, p. 36, entitled "An Appeal for Cord," and second for heeding the appeal by giving us two large bags full of cord. Perhaps some of our other readers are collecting it and will bring it when they come for their next visit.

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LAFAYETTE'S WATCH FOB

We are privileged to have as a loan exhibit, a watch fob that belonged to Lafayette. It was worn by him at a grand function given in his honor in this city—in the present borough of Manhattan—probably when he was a guest of the nation in 1824-25, though possibly when he was here in 1784. Among the guests was a lifelong friend of Lafayette's, M. Eugene Perin, a Frenchman living in the then fashionable section, on Division Street. M. Perin admired the elegant, new style fob, and afterward, when calling upon the General, spoke of its beauty and asked to see it that he might more closely examine it. Thereupon Lafayette took it from its case, snapped the catch on his fob pocket and advanced toward M. Perin, saying that it was not seen to advantage on the brown suit which he was wearing but needed the lustrous black satin evening suit for background. Then he put it into M. Perin's hands and bent over his shoulder while the latter observed it closely and commented on the fine quality of workmanship displayed. Lafayette said, "You *do* admire it, Eugene. Let me present it to you, *mon ami,* as a small token of my very large regard." As politeness required, M. Perin demurred, and Lafayette urged, "Ah! But take it! It is nothing to what you have done for me!" When showing the gift and telling the story, M. Perin always said, "That was Lafayette! So generous hearted! When I had truly done nothing except to accept his very dear friendship. I tell you—not for my own glory—but because the incident so well represents Lafayette."

LAFAYETTE'S WATCH FOB

M. Perin willed the fob to neighbors of his, the late Mr. and Mrs. George Child, "Because of their affectionate admiration for my dear Lafayette." It is loaned to the Museum by Miss Agnes E. Bowen, a grandniece of Mrs. Child. The fob is ten and a half inches long, made of cut steel in three varieties of beads and two of ornaments, and is in design a combination of double chain depending from the catch to a flat ornament in conventionalized rose type, to which is attached a finish of

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four tassels, the center two very nearly double the size of the outer two. It is placed in a small table case in the larger History Room.

LAFAYETTE IN BROOKLYN

Lafayette is known to have been twice in Brooklyn. On Wednesday, August 10, 1824, he examined the war steamer "Fulton," lying at a Williamsburg wharf, then went to the Navy Yard, and "on the deck of the Washington '74, he was introduced to the board of Trustees and a large number of the citizens of Brooklyn, including a numerous concourse of ladies." On July 4, 1825, he laid the cornerstone of a building at Henry and Cranberry Streets. Children's Museum folk have a right to a special interest in this occurrence, for the building was erected to house the collection of "The Apprentices' Library Association of the Village of Brooklyn." It contained also a lecture hall and accommodated the meetings of the village trustees and the post office. "The Apprentices' Library Association" became "The Brooklyn Institute and Youths' Free Library," and eventually the present "Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences," of which this Museum is a part while its Library is the descendent of the "Youths' Free Library." In his "History of Brooklyn," Stiles records the corner stone ceremony and tells how Lafayette himself helped the children to find place to sit on a nearby pile of building stone. He quotes from a description written by one of these children when he was "grown up," that was published in the Brooklyn Daily Eagle, July 3, 1858. The writer was Walt Whitman, "the good, gray poet."

WOMAN'S AUXILIARY NOTES

A Musicale for the benefit of the Franklin W. Hooper Memorial was given under the auspices of the Auxiliary at the home of Mrs. Herman Stutzer, 815 St. Mark's Avenue, on Tuesday, February 11. The program of the afternoon was rendered by Miss Martha Atwood, Soprano, Mr. John Barnes Wells, Tenor, and Mr. John Palmer, whose talent as a humorist created a great deal of merriment and laughter. Through the generosity of these artists we were able to realize $430., which brings the fund up to a little over $3,500. We hope to complete the $10,000. required by June in order that the work of expanding our loans may begin in the autumn.

That the Hooper Memorial is being discussed more or less intimately in family circles seems to be well established by a play conversation over the telephone recently conducted by a young lady of four. "Hello, Is this my husband? Well, no—I don't believe I have time today, I'm too busy with the Hooker Memorial."

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LINCOLN'S BIRTHDAY

On Lincoln's Birthday the turnstile registered 1556. Before the Museum had opened, a large group of visitors were waiting at the entrance and by 10:30 the long line of children who expected to attend the lecture had to be doubled in order that standing room for all might be found on the first floor of the building. The lecture on Abraham Lincoln was given to 750 children and repeated five times. A remarkable characteristic of the day's work was the intense interest that children showed in all the Museum activities and the close and thoughtful attention given to the lectures. In a Lecture Room so crowded, with at least a third of the audience standing, it wouldn't have been surprising if somebody had tried to talk, at any rate, a few remarks about the pictures to one's neighbor wouldn't have been an unpardonable offense—but even innocent conversation was frowned upon by those present who unanimously agreed that the only lecture really worth while is one you can hear in peace and quiet. Not more than five children in the 750 paid the extreme penalty for disturbing their neighbors, namely, leaving the room promptly by the nearest one of the five exits.

Members of the Staff were interested in finding out how many schools were represented by our visitors. While the great majority of these schools are in Brooklyn, the list shows the range of territory drawn upon.

The Brooklyn schools are as follows: Nos. 25, 28, 35, 40, 41, 44, 45, 55, 65, 68, 74, 79, 83, 87, 92, 93, 103, 109, 114, 125, 129, 138 (Model School), 144, 152, 156, 167, 178, Girls' High, Boys' High, Manual Training High, Eastern District High, Bushwick High, Brooklyn Evening High, Adelphi, Miss Chase's School, Froebel, Brooklyn Orphan Asylum, St. Agnes, St. Ambrose, St. Benedict, St. Boniface, Brooklyn Preparatory, St. Gregory, Lady of Victory, St. Matthew, Nativity, St. Nicholas, St. Theresa. Schools outside of Brooklyn: 27 Bronx, 30 Manhattan, 2 Weehawken, St. Joseph and St. Nicholas, Manhattan, and Home School, Staten Island.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM LEAGUE

Motto: Tell others about the Museum.

Pledge: I promise to wear the League badge, to visit the Museum, to interest others in the Museum, and to get new members for the League.

Meetings Mondays at 4:00 P. M.

Any child wishing to join the League can pay 10 cents. This entitles him to a League button, a member's slip, and to membership in the League for the remainder of his life.

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LIBRARY NOTES

From time to time, various queries have come to the Library from beyond the borders of the United States. The following letter has lately been received from a lumber dealer living in a little town in Canada, near the mouth of the St. Lawrence River.

"Children's Museum Library,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

"Dear Sirs:

"I have been informed that you have a very complete collection of books, bulletins and magazines treating on Natural History.

"I am interested in the subject, especially Fish, Amphibians, Salamanders, Snails, Newts, Turtles, and habits of Animals and Birds . . . I have sent for books several times and have found them so technical that I did not understand them, so feel cautious about sending for more without advice from some one.

"If not too much trouble, would you kindly send me a few titles that you would recommend,—books and magazines or bulletins of museums, etc."

"Yours truly,"

In answer to this request, a marked copy of our printed Nature List was forwarded, together with additional titles of periodicals and books.

During the month of January, we had the pleasure of welcoming two enthusiastic visitors from Yonkers, New York, to whom several of the Children's Museum publications were given. The visit was promptly followed by further inquiries over the telephone, and supplemented by a most appreciative letter, from which we quote the following paragraphs:

"Enclosed please find check of five dollars which is a voluntary contribution to the Museum. . . . I am very much interested in the wonderful work which the Museum is accomplishing.

"The Museum fills a great need, and I hope the time will come when all towns and cities will appreciate its importance in relation to the right development of the child.

"Intelligent children have active brains where question after question beg for truthful answers, and I find that the Museum is very fortunate in having the right people there who have patience, interest, and charm in speaking to the children."

In recognition of this generous gift, the donor was made an active member of The Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Astronomy** Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

March 4 The Sun
11 The Earth and the Moon
18 The Planets
25 The Stars **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **American History** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

March 5 The War of 1812
12 The Civil War
19 The Civil War (continued)
26 The Spanish-American War **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Light** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

March 6 The Nature of Light
13 How Light is Reflected and Refracted
20 Mirrors
27 Lenses **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of Africa** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

March 7 North Africa
14 Egypt
21 Central Africa
28 South Africa **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

March 1 Motion Picture
8 Motion Picture
15 Motion Picture
22 Motion Picture
29 Motion Picture **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

How Nature Feeds Her Children

March 1 The Feeding of Water Babies
8 Wood, Cloth and Paper Eaters
15 Juice Gatherers
22 Feasts Among the Birds
29 Animal Feasts **A. B. Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.00 P.M.

VOL. VI. BROOKLYN, N. Y., APRIL 1919 No. 7

A FEW TYPICAL WOOD WARBLERS

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THE WOOD WARBLERS

The Library is fortunate in the possession of a series of thirty-five charming studies of Wood Warblers painted in water colors by Mrs. James Cole Hancock of 135 Cambridge Place, Brooklyn. These pictures represent thirty-three species in life size, and comprise, (with a single exception), all the warblers that have been observed in Prospect Park by the Bird Lovers' Club of Brooklyn. There are separate studies of the male and female Chestnut-sided and Black-poll Warblers. The designs were enlarged to scale from illustrations by the famous artist, Louis Agassiz Fuertes, in Eaton's "Birds of New York". In his "Illustrator's Note" to these volumes, Mr. Fuertes states, "It was found impossible to devote an entire plate to each species, as was the first hope of all connected with the work. This accounts for the regrettable combining of several species on a plate." Our studies therefore help to fulfil this original plan, in regard to the warblers which visit Brooklyn.

The American Warblers or Wood Warblers are fascinating little birds, which are not only very numerous, but extremely difficult to identify, because of their diminutive size and great resemblance to each other. The males are generally brightly marked with yellow, while the females and young are duller and less easily distinguished. Mr. Chapman tells us in his Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America, that "The Wood Warblers are found only in America. About one hundred and fifty-five species are known, of which fifty-five visit the United States."

The Warblers with a few exceptions inhabit woodlands, and during migrations are seen in the trees of lawns and orchards. They feed almost entirely upon insects, and obtain their food in different ways. Some capture insects on the wing, or seize their prey from twigs and leaves, and others glean in the crevices of the bark of trees and shrubs.

During the migrations between their summer and winter homes, the Warblers frequently travel thousands of miles. They migrate at night, and it is sad to learn that large numbers of them have been killed by flying against light-houses and electric light towers. They arrive in this vicinity late in Spring, and May is therefore one of the best months for studying these little songsters. From twenty to twenty-five species have been reported in Prospect Park during the month of May, in different years.

In the accompanying illustration, six typical warblers are shown, more or less conspicuously marked with yellow, and varying in size from the tiny Blue-winged Warbler to the Yellow-breasted Chat. The Blue-

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Winged has a bright yellow crown and underparts, a narrow black line through the eyes, and wings and tail bluish gray. The Yellow Warbler or Summer Yellow-bird is more decidedly yellow, with brownish wings and tail. It is abundant in parks and gardens, very vivacious, and makes its nest in the fork of a bush or low tree.

The Maryland Yellow-throat or Northern Yellow-throat is also a common summer resident in this vicinity. "Its mask of black like a domino, contrasting with its bright yellow throat, its nervous action, twitching of the tail, and manner of climbing up the stalks of reeds or twigs, all serve to call attention to it, and fix its appearance in the mind." The Kentucky Warbler is sometimes confused with Northern Yellow-throat, but has a distinguishing mark in the yellow line extending from the bill over the eye. The Canadian Warbler has a conspicuous band of black spots like a necklace below the yellow throat, while the upper parts of its body are ashy gray. The Yellow-breasted Chat is distinctly larger than the preceding, and as its name indicates has a rich yellow throat and breast. There is a tinge of green in the brown of wings and back.

Many other warblers with yellow markings are represented in our series of pictures; for example, the Magnolia, Myrtle, Yellow Palm, Nashville, Cape May, Parula, Prairie, and Golden Winged Warblers. The Pine Warbler is generally found in pine woods. The Hooded Warbler receives its name from the heavy covering of black around its head and throat, resembling a hood. The Mourning and Connecticut Warblers are quite similar, but the former wears a very large, bluish-gray mantle, completely covering the head and throat.

A few species which have no yellow markings are worthy of mention; among them are the Black and White Warbler, which is less showily, but very strikingly dressed in heavy stripes of black and white; and the Oven Bird, wearing somewhat sombre colors but noted for its peculiar nest, made upon the ground in the shape of an oven, and also for its song which resembles Teacher, Teacher, Teacher. The Redstart has brilliant black plumage, and showy patches of orange and white on breast, wings, and tail. The male Blackburnian Warbler has conspicuous markings of black and white, with a brilliant orange throat and breast. This is said to be "the most exquisite of the whole family, and most eagerly sought by bird lovers."

Nature students who are perplexed about the identification of these beautiful little birds are cordially invited to examine our attractive water-color studies, and also to consult our bird books, many of which have colored illustrations. A list of some of the most useful manuals is given in this number of the Children's Museum News under the heading LIBRARY NOTES. M. S. D.

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* CARE OF TURTLES AND SMALL ALLIGATORS

These animals do not thrive in the hands of the amateur, especially in winter, if one may judge by the number of emaciated specimens annually presented to the Aquarium.

The returning Florida tourist usually has some baby alligators, which refusing to feed in our chilly northern climate, are brought to the Aquarium, perhaps during intensely cold weather, in nothing warmer than a pasteboard box. If this last thoughtless act does not finish them at once the attendants may be able to pull them through. Cold-blooded reptiles, such as turtles and alligators, must have warm quarters. They should be kept in aquaria or other vessels into which sunlight can enter, and the vessel placed where it will not become cold. If kept near a window for

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TURTLES SEEN THROUGH THE SIDE
OF AN AQUARIUM

the benefit of the sunshine, which is life to them, care should be taken that they are also near a heater.

*In the early spring and late autumn months of every year, inquiries come to the Museum from distressed owners of young turtles and alligators. These pets, after being kept for a few weeks in home aquaria, begin to refuse food and pine away. It is with the hope of assisting our visitors and readers in caring for such animals more successfully, that we have obtained permission to reprint Information Circular No. 3, prepared by Mr. C. H. Townsend, Director of the New York Aquarium, and published by the New York Zoological Society.

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The temperature of the ordinary living-room in winter is scarcely high enough to keep alligators active, since they need warmth of 75 to 85 degrees. They require not only warm water, but a place where they can crawl out at times. The water need not be more than a few inches deep, and the platform or small log on which they rest should be placed in such a way that they can climb upon it easily. Alligators in captivity are most comfortable and active when they have access to water that is nearly tepid, and it is their habit to float much on the surface. Turtles require not only warm water, but also the heat of the sun. For that reason turtles do not flourish as well in the New York Aquarium as they would in a building more accessible to sunshine. The temporary warming of torpid alligators or turtles in boxes set near a heater is useless. If they can not

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ALLIGATOR

be kept where both air and water are permanently warm, they should be dispensed with.

The numerous chilled and weak alligators sent to the "Zoological Park" each year, are placed in the sunny Reptile House in a tank of water with a steam pipe in it. After a thorough warming up in water of 80 to 90 degrees temperature, they begin to feed, and in three years will be a yard long, and weigh twelve or fourteen pounds. The State of Florida is making a mistake in allowing the present heavy export of young alligators, which are practically all lost by being carried north. Large alligators are now scarce, and the supply of alligators for leather is almost exhausted.

Since alligators and turtles do not feed unless kept permanently

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warm, it is necessary to first provide them with quarters where they will have a temperature of certainly not less than 75 degrees of both air and water. They should also have the benefit of sunshine. Forcing cold alligators to eat by cramming food into their mouths is admissible only temporarily. They will eat freely when the water and air are warm enough, and will grow amazingly. They eat such a variety of foods that it is easy enough to provide for them.

Alligators and snapping turtles are flesh eaters and may be provided with small minnows, frogs, tadpoles, worms, grubs, crayfish, shrimps, and small crabs, either dead or alive. When these can not be had, they will eat fresh chopped meat, fish, clams, and oysters. Many kinds of turtles will eat all of the above named foods, as well as snails, small aquatic mollusks, and insects. Others like very tender, green vegetables, such as tomatoes, lettuce, celery, and various water plants. The food of some species consists largely of the bulbs of sedges, (*Cyperus*), while with others it is chiefly small water mollusks.

Some of the turtles are active fish eaters, and will do well if supplied with live minnows. The wood-"turtle" and other species which forage on land as well as in the water, are fond of berries, mushrooms, and many kinds of fruits and vegetables, while nearly all kinds will eat grubs. The tortoises eat berries, mushrooms, and some garden vegetables as well as grubs and worms.

Turtles should be provided with a variety of foods until the kinds suited to each species are ascertained. Many species of turtles feed only under water, consequently it is absolutely necessary for them to have access to it when fed.

If their surroundings can be made to approach natural conditions —that is, if they can have access to a compartment in their quarters where there is dry sand, earth and sods, where grubs, worms, and other food can be thrown in abundance, success in keeping them will be more likely to follow. And it is remarkable how quickly they learn the exact location of food and drink. Once fed in a certain location, they will invariably seek that place when urged by hunger.

INDIAN ARROW HEADS

The Museum has a collection of Indian arrow heads made of quartz, flint, and obsidian in different stages of manufacture. Among these are arrow heads used for hunting, poisoned arrow heads, and arrow heads used in war. The collection may be studied by any one interested. Children who have private collections may bring them to the Museum on Sunday afternoons to have specimens identified and explained.

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LIBRARY NOTES

In studying the Warblers, every bird student should own for field use a copy of Reed's "Bird Guide to Land Birds East of the Rockies", and should consult Chapman's "Handbook of Birds of Eastern North America", and Hoffmann's "Guide to the Birds of New England and Eastern New York". In addition to these manuals, the Library provides for reference use Eaton's "Birds of New York", Ridgway's "Birds of North and Middle America", and Baird, Brewer & Ridgway's "History of North American Birds"; also, Maynard's "Warblers of New England", containing hand-colored plates by the author. The final authority on the Family Mniotiltidae is however "The Warblers of North America", written by Frank M. Chapman, with the co-operation of other ornithologists.

One of the most interesting of recent happenings has been the coming of large numbers of students from the Training School for Teachers. Early in the month of February, it was arranged by the teachers of the Science Department to have their Junior students visit the Children's Museum at the beginning of the course. Accordingly on February 5 and 7 two large classes were escorted to the Museum by their teachers, and all the students were asked to make a personal inspection of the Library and find out in what ways it might be of service to them.

In order to accomplish this end, the facilities offered by the Library were explained to numerous small groups in turn. At the same time, there were many inquiries about Nature books, stories illustrated by Rackham, Parrish, and others, and books on story-telling. Following these initial visits, groups of students have come on several days for further inspection of the Library, to make use of our books in preparing lessons on the robin, squirrel, and beaver, to write compositions about the "Correlation of Nature Study and Related Literature", and to learn the best methods of making weather observations.

Since the opening of the New Year, there have been many busy days in the Library, when the number of visiting children has ranged from 370 to 540. Nevertheless, February 12, the one hundred and tenth anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, has proved the busiest day of the year thus far. The recorded attendance was 709, a number which taxed to the utmost the limited space for readers, throughout the day. At least fifty boys and girls read stories about the "Great Emancipator" during the holiday. Among other interesting topics desired were the life of Roosevelt, Army and Navy insignia, legends of the stars, the invention of the harvester, postage-stamp catalogues, stories about animals, and nature designs suggestive as art motifs.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Geography of United States** Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.

April 1 The Connecticut Valley and the White Mountains
8 The Coast of New England
15 Pennsylvania and Virginia
22 The Southern States and the Mississippi Valley
29 The Rocky Mountains and the Great Basin **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **Plant Life** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

April 2 Plant Seeds: How They Are Scattered
9 Roots: Their Structure and Work
16 The Stem: Its Uses and How It Grows
23 The Uses of Leaves
30 What the Flowers Do **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Wonders of Nature** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

April 3 Geysers and Hot Springs
10 Volcanoes
17 Holiday—Motion Picture
24 Glaciers **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of Asia** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

April 4 India
11 Burma
18 Japan—Motion Picture
25 China **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

April 5 Motion Picture
12 Motion Picture
19 Motion Picture
26 Motion Picture **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

Collecting and Caring for Insects

April 5 The Collector's Outfit
12 Where to Find Caterpillars and Grubs and Cocoons
19 How to Feed Insects
26 The Care of Your Collection **A. B. Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

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From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

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Children's Museum, Bedford Park

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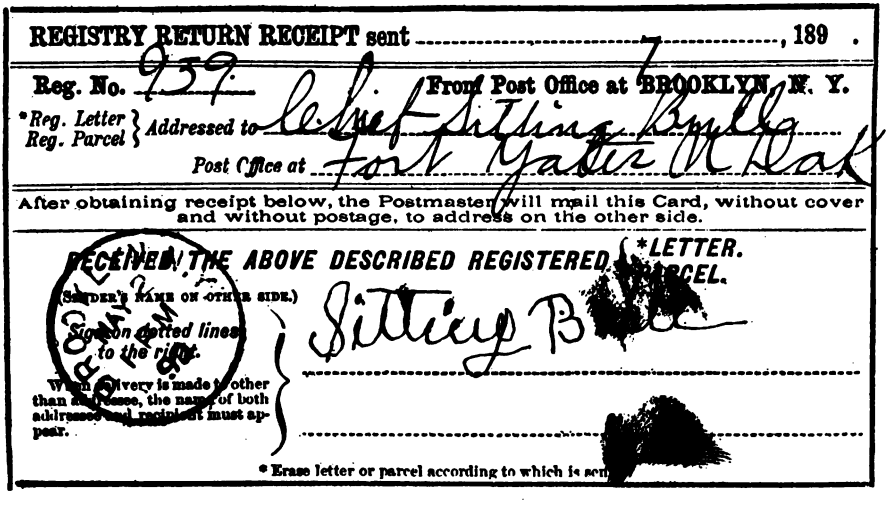
VOL. VI. BROOKLYN, N. Y., MAY 1919 No. 8


REGISTRY RETURN RECEIPT sent ....., 189 .

Reg. No. 959. From Post Office at BROOKLYN, N. Y.

*Reg. Letter / Reg. Parcel } Addressed to Chief Sitting Bull

Post Office at Fort Yates N. Dak.

After obtaining receipt below, the Postmaster will mail this Card, without cover and without postage, to address on the other side.

RECEIVED THE ABOVE DESCRIBED REGISTERED *LETTER. *PARCEL.

(SENDER'S NAME ON OTHER SIDE.)

Sign on dotted lines to the right.

When delivery is made to other than addressee, the name of both addressee and recipient must appear.

Sitting Bull

* Erase letter or parcel according to which is sent

Facsimilie of a special delivery return postcard bearing the signature and thumb print of the great Sioux Indian Medicine Chief, Sitting Bull

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SITTING BULL

For boys and girls studying American history, one of the interesting exhibits in the History Room is the special delivery return postcard, loaned by Mrs. Julia Brown of 1102 Coney Island Avenue, with the signature and even the thumb print of the great Sioux Indian Medicine Chief, Sitting Bull. This famous terrorizer of the Whites was born in 1834, near the banks of the Missouri in South Dakota, a great buffalo country, wild and rough. His tribe was nomadic, moving about from place to place whenever the lack of food drove them to do so. Early in his life, Sitting Bull became an expert hunter, for it is said he killed his first buffalo calf at the age of ten and at fourteen killed and scalped his first enemy, a Crow Indian.

It was about this time that the settlers of the eastern states began pushing westward. The Indians resisted the aggression as they had done in former years along the eastern coast. Again treaties were made to pacify the red men, but alas, they were not kept. Clothing and food which had been promised were held back by agents until the Indians lost what little faith they had had in the white men and their government. As a young man, Sitting Bull was gifted with great power in speaking and he used this talent to the full in arousing the anger of the Indians against their white oppressors. He was greatly opposed to the signing of the treaties with the Whites and to selling land to them. Sitting Bull gathered a group of these discontented Indians in a place known as the "Bad Lands" where the marshy character of the land protected them while they made raids on the Whites. The government became very much afraid of these raids, for the lives of the people in the western settlements were endangered.

In 1876, an effort was made to induce Sitting Bull to go on a reservation, but he refused to do so. Government troops sent out to do police duty had several skirmishes with the Indians, the most fierce one being in June 1876, at Little Big Horn Mountain, when the Indians from the Bad Lands settled in several small towns and were attacked by Generals Reno and Custer. All but one man in Custer's troop were killed. Curley, Custer's Indian guide, realizing that the white men were losing and had no chance

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for escape, suggested that Custer disguise himself in the dress of a fallen Indian, but Custer refused to leave his fighting men. The Indian escaped in disguise and was the only one to tell of the awful slaughter. Sitting Bull at this time was not in the thick of the fight, but fled with his family (except for one of a set of twins who was left behind) to the mountains, where he said he was "making medicine." His friends had less faith in him after this show of cowardice.

Custer and his men did not die in vain, for the battle of Little Big Horn was the last big struggle with the Indians. After this battle, the Indian forces were divided into two parties and Sitting Bull was routed by General Miles. He escaped to Canada where he remained until 1881, when he surrendered at Ft. Buford. He was confined at Ft. Randal until 1883, and continued very sullen. He urged the Sioux to refuse to sell land to Whites in 1888, and was killed in 1890, when he refused to be arrested by the Indian police that had been sent to capture him.

G. C. M.

LECTURES

Requests for special lectures during the school hours have, this year, far outnumbered those of any previous year.

Since the first of March sixty-two lectures have been given. Before April 1st, every available day at 10:00 and 11:00 A. M., and 2:00 P. M. had been reserved for classes desiring lectures at the Museum. As the NEWS goes to print there are only eight hours in May which are unengaged.

If the Lecture Room were larger, classes could be combined, when principals wish to send several grades for the same lecture, and thus effect a great saving of time and energy now expended in lectures to one grade at a time, which is all that can be accommodated in the tiny class room.

Many teachers have not been able to arrange dates for lectures, but we trust that another year these teachers will send in their applications early in the season. In February, this year, one principal reserved dates for lectures which began in February and will end in June.

THE TREE CLUB

The fund which the Tree Club members worked so strenuously to raise during the winter and early spring months was completed in time for the spring planting of the seven red oak trees in memory of Theodore Roosevelt. The ceremony took place in Bedford Park on Saturday, April 12, in the presence of thousands of spectators.

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THE RECENT GIFTS EXHIBIT

An exhibit of recent gifts was placed on view on the afternoon of Friday, April 11, on which occasion a tea was given by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum, with Mrs. Arthur Howe as hostess. It was a spring-like day and there was a large attendance. An additional attraction for the guests was offered in brief talks on the work of the Museum and in moving pictures illustrating some of its phases.

The new collection fills 10 cases on the second floor—8 in the former Shell Room and 2 in the hall adjacent. Sixty-eight donors are represented by approximately 400 articles for which 600 labels were prepared. In counting the number of donors each firm name or family name, under which a collection was given, has been listed as one donor. Where a label lists an article as being from the "Museum Collection" it is still a gift, because it was bought with money from some one of the gift funds of the Brookyn Institute Museums. There are memorial gifts; gifts from people living far from Brooklyn yet who have become deeply interested in the work of this Museum; gifts from the "Museum Children" who have grown up and are giving a good account of themselves in the world, and many gifts from the Woman's Auxiliary.

The Children's Museum is deeply grateful to its friends. It appreciates the fact that "good will" is as valuable an asset for a museum as for any other business.

Donors who observe the exhibit will realize that an article which has seemed unimportant to the giver may justly occupy an important place in sequence setting forth some detail of art or science. But a majority of the things shown have a beauty or a use which in itself is satisfactory reason for their acceptance. When the "New Museum" is an accomplished fact, each object will be given adequate space in the special department exhibit to which each belongs. Now they are crowded into rather too little space. Yet even so, not all the recent gifts have been shown. There is a nucleus left over for a later exhibit.

For convenience in display the gifts are assigned to countries grouped under Grand Division case labels and separated by lines of soutasch braid, with small outline labels where needed. Thus, Case 1 holds articles from Europe and European possessions on this Continent, and from certain of the Eastern States of this country. Case II has New York State things. Case III continues North America in the states west of New York, in Alaska, and in Mexico; shows Central America in an

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exhibit from Guatemala, and South America in a few things, mainly from Brazil. Case IV has the Samoan Islands, under Polynesia, and cases 4A and 4B—in the hall—show the Hawaiian Islands, our other Polynesian possessions. Cases V and VI, under Asia, show China, Japan, and the empire of India and Malaysia (the Philippines and Java). Case VII is devoted to Africa and Asia Minor. Case VIII, a center, table case has a selection of beautiful objects from many countries. When installing the exhibit the color scheme had to be controlled and worked out in connection with the relationship of articles in the country to which they belonged. Fortunately there was a great deal of a good, dull red and many things in tan, or those browns and grays that shade into black. Against this excellent general tone, ivories and articles of various colors stand out and harmonize.

But the limitation of space has obliged amazing propinquity. That is a long word—look it up children! For instance, in Case I, on the "lower floor" of which there *had to be* a collection of Civil War relics, including a Gettysburg souvenir, and a fine picture of "Sheridan's Ride" bearing the general's photographed autograph; a length of the original Atlantic cable that was *not* laid, a piece of the Plymouth Rock, a pair of the earliest made rubber galoshes, also from Plymouth; three large dolls and a doll's hoopskirt. To make those relate in interest one has to make up a little story after the fashion of the game of "word inserts." Thus: Two little girls of Brooklyn (see doll labels) whose early American ancestors trod upon (Plymouth Rock) and whose later ancestors trode in (galoshes) through the streets of Plymouth, enjoyed playing with dolls early in the 19th Century and in 1858. No thought of a terrible (Civil War) entered their minds. Then their men relatives enlisted and marched away with the old (14th Regiment), participating in the (Battle of Antietam) (see cannon ball) being cheered by (Sheridan's Ride) from Winchester and fighting at (Gettysburg) They all laughed heartily over the Civil War story. "The Skeleton in the closet" (see doll's hoopskirt for this thought complex), and, as the family had always kept up a correspondence with its collateral branch in England, they rejoiced when (the Atlantic Cable) became a possibility.

Recent issues of the Children's Museum News have carried illustrated articles about several features of the exhibit. But mention must be made also of the collections of figurines, placed against mirror background, so that the whole of each dainty object may be seen; of the beautiful needlework; the scrimshawed articles; the large group of Indian things; the pictures; choice objects from the Asian countries represented, and the rather remarkable collection from Africa, showing leather, shell, ivory, beadwork, native weaving, necklaces, and a Chief's

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girdle of Colopas monkey skin, such as is now rare. The center case has models of noted diamonds, gold and silver from our own mines, American medals from great expositions, etc., beautiful objects from Italy and Japan, and "some wondrous shells." Two of these bear cameos finished and ready to be removed, and near them is a cameo prepared for setting. There are gorgeous abalones from the California coast and a mother of pearl "Turban" shell together with buckles made from this kind of shell.

AUXILIARY NOTES

A small group of friends of the Museum met in the Geography Room on the afternoon of April 11, to hear presented and to consider informally some of the pressing needs of the Museum in connection with the development of its educational work.

The importance of this work as a measure of reconstruction was unanimously agreed upon. Among those participating in the discussion the feeling prevailed that the upbuilding of Children's Museum educational activities would be a fitting and living memorial to the young men of Brooklyn who had given their lives in the service of their country and to others whose uncompleted work must be carried on by the rising generation.

A thousand dollars ($1000) was generously given by this remarkable little group.

The names of the brave boys in whose memory it was offered will be placed on a tablet to be exhibited in the Museum as a permanent historical record while the fund will be used to enable the boys and girls now growing up to realize in their own lives the same ideals that inspired the patriotic deeds of their fallen brothers.

THE RETURN OF OUR BOYS

One of the great privileges of occupying a position in the Children's Museum is the joy of welcoming our boys returned from the Great War. All of those who as young children were closely identified with the Museum, so far as we know, are safe and well.

Captain Austen Curtiss, Ensign Philip Luce, and Sergeant Edgar Smith were among our visitors early in April. Sergeant Smith has fully recovered from a gas attack and a shrapnel wound and wears the Croix de Guerre, awarded him for bravery in maintaining continuous radio communication under shell fire in the Argonne Forest.

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LIBRARY NOTES

On the afternoon of April 4, a group of seventeen alert students connected with the Library School of the New York Public Library paid the eighth annual visit of the School to the Children's Museum. It was a great pleasure to welcome so large a number, especially as only a portion of the junior class were able to come last year.

Referring to this visit, the Principal of the Library School, Mr. Ernest J. Reece, has sent us the following generous words of appreciation:

"Miss Tiemann reports that our class enjoyed a most profitable hour at the library of the Children's Museum yesterday, and I wish to thank you for your kindness in connection with it. I feel that the trip was of real value, and I am glad we were able to send our entire group."

The Bird Lovers' Club of Brooklyn indulged in unusual festivities at their April meeting. On this occasion, the club celebrated the safe return from France of one of its members, Mr. Lester Walsh, who rendered valiant service over seas, as a member of the "Observation Corps" during the hard fighting at the Hindenburg Line.

The program of the evening included a "Round Robin," or brief descriptions of Spring Migrants; and a very interesting account by Mr. Walsh of the birds he had observed while at Camp Wadsworth, Spartanburg, South Carolina, and also the birds he had seen on a trip to the Blue Ridge Mountains, during a ten days' furlough from camp.

Mrs. Schoonhoven made reference to the stars on the "Service Flag," and with much feeling voiced the gratitude of the club to the guest of the evening for his patriotic services during the World War.

The Library has lately had the privilege of collecting for distribution to our soldiers who are now over seas, in hospitals, or returning on transport ships, two hundred and fifty recent magazines such as the *Saturday Evening Post, Country Gentleman, Red Cross Magazine,* and illustrated sections of the Sunday Editions of the *New York Times, Sun, and Tribune.* During the past year, 2,671 periodicals and 130 bound books have been sent to our soldiers and sailors in national service.

Our thanks are due to many kind friends who have donated books and periodicals, to the members of the Tree Club who have aided in their collection, and to the Brooklyn Public Library, the Brooklyn Navy Yard, the American Red Cross, the American Library Association, and the Naval Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association for forwarding and distributing this literature.

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For All Grades: Tuesdays, 4:00 P. M.
May 6 Why We Observe Arbor Day
13 Why We Protect Birds
20 The Fire Department—Motion Picture **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **Flowerless Plants** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.
May 7 Ferns
14 Mushrooms
21 Sea Weeds and Lichens **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Historical Stories** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.
May 1 Miles Standish
8 Evangeline
15 The Lady of the Lake
22 Motion Picture **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Our Distant Possessions** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.
May 2 The Hawaiian Islands
9 Porto Rico
16 The Philippines
23 The Panama Canal **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.
May 3 Motion Picture
10 Motion Picture
17 Motion Picture
24 Motion Picture **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Nature Study of Bedford Park** Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.
May 3 Trees
10 Shrubs and Flowers
17 Birds
24 Insects **A. B. Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

VOLUME VII

OCTOBER 1919 TO MAY 1920

An illustrated periodical devoted to the activities of the Children's Museum in presenting to children various subjects in Natural History, Geography, and United States History

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

1919-1920

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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

OF

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Brooklyn Avenue between Prospect Place and Park Place

FREE

Week days..... **9:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.**

Sundays..... **2:00 P. M. to 5:30 P. M.**

The Children's Museum was established in December, 1899. It was the first institution of its kind and is today the largest and best equipped Children's Museum in the world.

It interests and instructs children by means of its exhibits of natural history specimens; geographical and historical models; its library containing 7,500 carefully selected and graded books; its illustrated lectures; and personal attention to visitors.

The Museum Publications comprise the Annual Report, The Children's Museum News, Circulars of Information, Classified lists of Specimens to Lend to Schools, lists of Nature Books, and a Catalogue of the Historical Collection.

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VOLUME VII

OCTOBER 1919 TO MAY 1920

ILLUSTRATIONS

Americanization
(The) Boys and the Americanization Instructor, Mrs. Dudley Miles 28
Forty 7B Boys of Public School 84, first lesson in Americanization 25
(A) Problem of the Hour 33
Busy Bee Room
A Cord Bee 4
Children's Museum
(The) Old-fashioned Home of a New-fashioned Museum 17
History Room
(A) September Morning at the Children's Museum.... 9
First Impressions in the History Room 27
Insect Room
Bernice G. Schubert Mounting Butterflies 13
Roosevelt Memorial in Bedford Park. The Theodore..... 1

VOLUME VII

OCTOBER 1919 TO MAY 1920

INDEX

Achievement, One Boy's 5
Adam, Victor 23
America, Discovery of 15
(The) American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees 2, 3, 6
American Desert 12
American Flag 3
American History 22
American Library Association 7
American Museum of Natural History 29, 31
American Naval and Marine Scouts (Junior) 2, 3
American Northwest 5
American Red Cross 22
Americanization 29
Committee 35, 36
Lessons 26
Program 22, 34

Digitized by Google

Anarchistic 36
Announcement
See Children's Museum News
Apple Industry 5
Archey, Gilbert 12
Armistice (1918) Signing of the 15
Ashokan Reservoir 39
Attendance 14
Barnes, Mr. Earl 6
Barton, Clara 28
Basset, Miss Isabel D. 10
Bayles, Mrs. Havens Brewster 6
Beckwith, Miss Mary G. 30
Bergen Homestead 10
Bergen Island 10
"Birds of Prey" 7
"Birth Stones: Sentiments and Superstitions Associated with Precious Stones" 31
Board of Education 2
Bolshevist 35
Bolshevistic 36
"Book of Birds" 23
"Book of Knowledge" 7
"(What) Books and Library Service Have Meant to the Army and Navy" 7
Boy Scouts of America 2, 3, 7
Brooklyn Botanic Garden 2
(The) Brooklyn Institute of Arts & Sciences 18, 19, 31
Trustees 18
Brower, Hon. George V. 2, 3
Brown, John 39
Brown, Miss Marjorie 3
Bruckbauer, Frederick 2
Buffon, Comte de 23
Bus 19
Bushwick Avenue Sunday School 29
Busy Bee Room 4, 14
Calder, Hon. William M. 2
Cambridge (Mass.) Museum for Children 29
Camp Fire Girls 3
Campbell, Miss Miriam A. 12
Canterbury Museum 12

Digitized by Google

Capital 35
Carrington, Julian Dana 12
Carnegie, Andrew 28
Cavalier Coming to Call 37
Charles, Benjamin 23
Child Welfare Board 39
"Children's Library of Work and Play" 7
Children's Museum 2, 5, 6, 11, 13, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 29, 31, 35, 36, 37, 38, 39
Games 21
League 6, 7, 12
Children's Museum News 10
Civil War 39
Clay, Henry 39
Coffin, Mrs. I. Sherwood 18, 20
Columbus Day 15
Conchology, Manual of 23
Concilium Bibliographicum 12
Coney Island 5
Conradi, Miss Amelie 31
(A) Cord Bee 4
Cornell University 12
Criminal and Civil Courts 39
Davis, William T. 12
Delaware, State College of 19
Distinguished Visitors
See Visitors
Docent 21
Doran, Miss Bertha 3
Douglas, Miss Julia B. 12
Duffy, Miss Lillian T. 34
Dutch Trader 37
Dyckman Street Ferry 11
(An) Echo from our Exhibits 6
Edison, Thomas A. 28
Erwin, Miss Anne T. 39
Escher, Dr. Herman 12
Evergreen, Colo. 12
Field, Dr. Herbert Haviland 12
Field Trips 10, 20
Films 5
Fisher, Margaret T. 35

Digitized by Google

Fisher, Mrs. William W. 6
Flatlands 10
Ford Motor Company of Detroit 5
Fort Donelson 39
Fort Lee Ferry 11
Fox, William Henry 2, 18
Franklin, Mrs. 11
Franklin, Dwight 11
(The) Friendly Tourists' Club 30
Fuertes, Louis Agassiz 23
Gager, Dr. C. Stuart 2, 19, 20
Gallup, Miss Anna Billings 2, 8, 16, 18, 24, 32, 40
Gasteropods 23
Geography Room 26, 30
Gettysburg Address 26, 28
Girl Pioneers of America 3
Girl Scouts of America 3
Gleaves, Admiral Albert 7
Grant 36
Greenebaum, Mrs. C. 4
Guest Book
See Visitors
"Guide to the Nature Treasures of New York City" 5
Harman, Hon. John N. 2
Hartford, Conn. 39
Harvard University 29
(The) Hawaiian Islands
(Life, Industries, Customs and Scenic Wonders)
(Historical Pageant, Pineapple and Banana Industries)
(Rice Harvests, Making Poi, Picking Cocoanuts)
(Hawaiian Fisherman, Waterfalls, Landscape)
A Visit to Kilauea Volcano (The World's Greatest Active Volcano) 5
Hawn, Henry Gaines 2
Health Department 39
Healy, A. Augustus 20
Higgins, Charles M. 19
Hill, William 3, 6
Hillyer, Mrs. Ellison 30
History Room 10, 26
Hooper, Professor 19, 20
Hooper Memorial, F. W. 11, 12

Digitized by Google

Fund 11, 18
Loan Collection 18
Stamp Party 11, 21
"Hoosier Poet" 15
Hopi Indian Woman 11, 12
Hudson River 11
Hudson, Harvesting Ice on the 5
Indian 37
Instructors, Volunteer 21
"Ivory and the Elephant in Art, in Archaeology, and in Science".. 31
James, Mrs. Warner 6
Jenkins, Mrs. F. L. 6
Jenkins, May E. 20
Joan of Arc Committee 31
Joan of Arc Exhibition." "The Ceremonies Attending the Opening of the 31
Joan of Arc "The Dedication of the Statue of Joan of Arc in the City of New York" 31
Junior League
See The American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees
Kaplan, Mr. 37
Keppel, Frederick P. 7
Kerr, Miss Jessie L. 39
Kilmer, Joyce 2
Kings Highway 10
Kunz, Dr. George Frederick 31
Labor 35
Lantern Slides 22
Lawrence, Dr. A. W. 23
Lecture Room 11, 12
Lecture Work 5
Lectures 14
Special 8, 16, 24
Lee, M. D. 8, 16, 24, 30, 32, 39, 40
Lehman, Charles 6
Leng, Charles W. 12
Lewis, Mrs. Frederick Z. 6
Library 7, 15, 23, 31, 39
American Library Association 7
Children's Museum, Cambridge, Mass. 7
Children's Museum League 7

Digitized by Google

High School Library, Hartford, Conn. 39
Library Schools 7, 15, 39
Notes 7, 15, 23, 31, 39
"Pioneer Dinner" 7
Lincoln, Abraham 26, 29, 37, 39
Lloyd, Mrs. Mortimer L. 6
Lumber Industry 5
McCrate, Hon. John 2
"(The) Magic of Jewels and Charms" 31
Martin, Mrs. H. S. 30
Meleney, Dr. Clarence E. 2
Membership Committee 30
Memorials
Hooper, F. W. 11, 12
Roosevelt (See First Trees Planted in Memory of Theodore Roosevelt)
Merrimac 37
Minister Comes to Call 37
Mollusks, Univalves 23
Monitor 37
Motion Picture Films. See Films
Museum
See Children's Museum
Games 12
National League for Women's Service 2, 22
Neeley, Mrs. Floyd S. 6
New York 10, 11
New York Public Library 15
Oath of Allegiance 3
"Old Glory" 3
Olive Industry 5
Orange Industry 5
Orr, Thomas 2
Osborn, President Henry Fairfield 29
Pack Memorial Public Library of Ashville, N. C. 39
Palisades 11
Parental Band 3
Park Department 2
Parker, Miss Grace 2
Patroon 37
"Paul Revere's Ride" 7
Peace 35

Digitized by Google

"Peter Discovers two old Friends, the White-breasted Nuthatch and the Brown Creeper" 23
"Peter Rabbit sees Rosebreast and the Scarlet Tanager" 23
Philadelphia 10
Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences 23
Pilgrims, Landing of the 15
Pilsbry, Henry A. 23
Plymouth, Landing of the Pilgrims at 15
Poems
In the Children's Museum 38
(A) Life Lesson 15
(The) Name of Old Glory 15
Roosevelt the Leader 2
Trees 2
"When the Frost is on the Pumpkin" 15
(The) "President and his Family at Oyster Bay" 15
(A) Problem of the Hour 34
Prospect Park 10
Prosser, Miss Ella 11
Pulitzer, Joseph 28
Red Cross 39
Rembrandt Club 34
Requests for Pamphlets 22
Riffeuw, John 3
Riley, James Whitcomb 15
"Rings for the Finger from the Earliest Times to the Present" .. 31
Robinson, Mrs. Douglas 15
Roos, Alvan 7
Roosevelt, Theodore 1, 2, 15, 28, 39
Ross, William 3
Rough Riders 15
Rowe, Hon. Frederick W. 2
St. John's Band 3
Salmon Industry 5
Schenck-Crook House 10
Schmalowitz, Arthur 14
School
Public: Manhattan High School 29
Public: (Elementary) 36
41 3
46 34
83 3

Digitized by Google

84 ..... 26, 37
167 13
Schoonhoven, Mrs. 19
Schubert, Bernice G. 13
Seitz, Mrs. Don C. 6, 30
Selas, Max 6, 7
Shells 23, 30
Sherman 36
Shoes, Making 5
Siegrist, Miss Mary 2
Simmons College 31
Simonds, Miss Mildred 12
Soper, Mrs. Charles A. 6
Sorensen, Miss Marta 31
Spangler, Miss H. Mary 39
Stamp Party
See (The) F. W. Hooper Memorial
Staten Island Association of Arts & Sciences, Museum..... 12
Stephenson, Mary 3
Stones." "Curious Lore of Precious 31
Stones in Shakespeare's Works." "The Known References of Precious 31
South America 30
Times, New York 2
Tree Club (See American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees)
Tree Club Rally See American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees
Trees Planted in Memory of Theodore Roosevelt. First 2
Tryon, George Washington 23
Tucker, Miss Margaret 7
Unveiling of the Tablet 3
Urbach, Edwin 7
Viet, Superintendent 36
Virginia, Inauguration of the House of Burgesses 15
Visitors 6, 12, 31
Volcano, Kilauea
See Hawaiian Islands
Volunteer Instruction Committee 11
Wallis, Alfred 14
Walsh, Mrs. James P. 12
Wanamaker, John 28

Digitized by Google

Washington, Booker T. 28
Washington, George 29, 36, 39
Water Supply of New York City 39
Webster, Daniel 39
Whittaker, Mrs. William 15
Woman's Auxiliary 6, 11, 14, 15, 18, 19, 20, 22, 26, 29, 30, 34, 35, 36
Executive Board 14, 19
Speakers' Bureau 6
Standing Committees 14
World, New York 2
Yellowstone National Park 10
Young, Rev. S. Edward 2
Zelenko, Alexander, Jr. 6

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.00 P.M.

VOL. VII. BROOKLYN, N. Y., OCTOBER 1919 No. 1

THE THEODORE ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL
IN BEDFORD PARK

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FIRST TREES PLANTED IN MEMORY OF THEODORE ROOSEVELT

The Junior League of the American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees—familiarly known as the "Tree Club," had the honor of planting the first group of trees to the "Great American" and Tree Lover—Theodore Roosevelt.

On April 12, seven Red Oak trees were planted in Bedford Park in a plot apportioned by the Park Department. A bronze-mounted boulder was unveiled at the same time bearing the inscription:

TREES PLANTED AS A MEMORIAL TO
THEODORE ROOSEVELT
BY THE JUNIOR LEAGUE OF THE
AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE PLANTING AND
PRESERVATION OF CITY TREES
APRIL 12, 1919

Hon. John N. Harman, Park Commissioner, acted as Chairman of the Day and Hon. George V. Brower, former Park Commissioner, was the Honorary Chairman.

Hon. William M. Calder, United States Senator, gave the chief address, "Roosevelt the Man," Rev. S. Edward Young, Pastor of the Bedford Presbyterian Church, who was a personal friend of Colonel Roosevelt, gave a short address—"Roosevelt the American," and Miss Grace Parker, Commandant of the National League for Women's Service spoke on "Roosevelt the Nature Lover." Addresses were made also by Hon. Frederick W. Rowe and Hon. John MacCrate. Mr. Henry Gaines Hawn read two appropriate poems—"Trees" by Joyce Kilmer, one of the earliest Americans to give his life for Liberty in the World War, and "Roosevelt the Leader" by Miss Mary Siegrist, whose poem was selected by the New York *Times* for the Memorial Collection and printed in the Memorial Copy of the *Times* on February 9, last.

Among the honored guests who occupied Reviewing Stand seats were: Dr. Clarence E. Meleney, Board of Education; Mr. William Henry Fox, Director of Museums; Dr. C. Stuart Gager, Director of the Brooklyn Botanic Garden; Miss Anna Billings Gallup, Curator of the Children's Museum; Miss Mary Siegrist, New York City; Mr. Thomas Orr, New York *World*; Mr. Arthur Hoffman, Commissioner, Junior American Naval and Marine Scouts; Mr. Frederick Bruckbauer, Commissioner, Boy Scouts of

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America; Miss Bertha Doran, Commissioner, Girl Pioneers of America; and many other prominent citizens.

Several thousand visitors enjoyed the simple, appropriate exercises. The Boy Scouts of America and the Junior American Naval and Marine Scouts marched past the Reviewing Stands, four abreast, passing each other in opposite directions,—the Khaki clad Boy Scouts with their varied colored kerchiefs and the Naval and Marine Scouts in their immaculate white, blue trimmed uniforms. The St. John's Band led the Naval and Marine Scouts while the Boy Scouts of America marched to the martial tune of their own Field Band.

The Parental Band from Flushing, under the direction of Mr. John Riffeuw, gave several musical numbers and also played the national anthems for the hundreds of school children who were led in singing by Miss Marjorie Brown of P. S. 41 and Miss Mildred N. Burden of P. S. 83.

Girl Scouts of America, Girl Pioneers of America, and Camp Fire Girls holding positions of honor about the Reviewing Stands made a very effective setting with the out-of-doors scenery. The nearby neighbors contributed to the general effect by displaying "Old Glory" from their home windows adjoining the Park.

For the first time in public, the Oath of Allegiance, or Pledge was recited in succession by the various organizations as follows: The Girl Pioneers of America, Girl Scouts of America, Camp Fire Girls, Boy Scouts of America, Junior American Naval and Marine Scouts, and the Junior League of the American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees.

The Unveiling of the Tablet was left to the last part of the program when the Chairmen, Speakers, and invited guests came from the Reviewing Stands and stood with the Children's Organizations—bearing their flags and pennants—around the plot containing the Bronze-mounted Tablet and newly planted trees.

Three members of the "Tree Club," Mary Stephenson, William Hill, and William Ross were chosen for the most honored privilege of the day—that of Unveiling the Tablet. While the American Flag—the flag Roosevelt loved so dearly—was being lifted from the boulder, the entire assembly stood in impressive silence for the space of thirty seconds and the two bands played softly the tune of America.

At the close of the exercises, Hon. George V. Brower, President of the American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees, entertained at his home on Park Place and Kingston Avenue, the members of the committee, the speakers, and other invited guests. Mr. Brower complimented the Committee on its work and commended especially the simplicity of the exercises and the part the children played in them.

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A CORD BEE

One day a large, flexible bundle arrived at the Museum. It was heavy, weighing almost forty pounds and as mobile as a woolen pillow. No one could even guess what the contents might be although several members of the Tree Club, who were present, offered to investigate. On opening the bundle, they discovered all varieties and sizes of cord more or less tangled and knotted. "Just the thing for the newspapers," said the biggest boy starting for the Busy Bee Room with an armful. The Cord Bee lasted

THREE BUSY BEES HOLD A CORD BEE
IN THE BUSY BEE ROOM

only a few days for many hands made light work and prepared a long row of neatly woven balls of cord for the incoming bundles of newspapers. The newspaper room was never before so orderly as it is now with its bundles of neatly tied newspapers.

We wish to thank Mrs. C. Greenebaum for this useful donation and to assure her that it is all being used to help plant trees in Brooklyn.

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ONE BOY'S ACHIEVEMENT

For the past six months, a twelve year old lad from Coney Island has betaken himself to the Children's Museum. He visits it regularly every Monday and Saturday, and whenever he can spare time from home duties, on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

His ambition to visit all the Museums of New York City was first kindled by reading a book entitled, "Guide to the Nature Treasures of New York City," but up to this time he has never gone beyond Bedford Park on his tour.

The experiences of his first day made him decide that the Children's Museum was not to be passed over lightly, but would serve as an introduction to the larger Museums. He understood the collections because they are simple, he found books to read about the collections; he could attend the lectures, make experiments, join the League, and work with the other boys for certificates of credit and a medal.

The geographical models fascinated him and inspired his first work for a certificate. At the end of a month his rating in geography at school had risen from seventy to ninety per cent. He is making good progress toward other certificates and is happily discovering that all he does at the Museum makes him a better student in school. When he decides to resume his tour, he will appreciate more fully some of the nature treasures described in the little book through which he obtained his first glimpse of the museum world.

MOTION PICTURE FILMS

Our Motion Picture Collection has been increased and improved this summer, through the generosity of the Ford Motor Company of Detroit, in giving us twelve reels of films.

The subjects are: The Hawaiian Islands (Life, Industries, Customs and Scenic Wonders); The Hawaiian Islands (Historical Pageant, Pineapple and Banana Industries); The Hawaiian Islands (Rice Harvest, Making Poi, Picking Cocoanuts); The Hawaiian Islands (Hawaiian Fishermen, Waterfalls, Landscape); A Visit to Kilauea Volcano (The World's Greatest Active Volcano); The Apple Industry; The Olive Industry; The Orange Industry and Harvesting Ice on the Hudson; Making Shoes (Part 1 and Part 2); From Trap to Can—Salmon Industry, and the Lumber Industry of the American Northwest.

The lecture work is greatly facilitated by the possession of these films, to which we shall add as rapidly as possible other films illustrative of important industries and places of scenic interest of our country.

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WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

A Speakers' Bureau has been organized within the Woman's Auxiliary. It is composed of well-known Brooklyn women who know the Museum and are experienced in public speaking. These women have kindly volunteered to present our work to schools, clubs, churches, civic bodies, and other organizations. With their help, we hope to avoid the embarrassment of former days which was due to the fact that the demand for speakers was always greater than the Museum could supply.

The members of this Bureau are: Mrs. Havens Brewster Bayles, Mrs. Don C. Seitz, Mrs. Mortimer L. Lloyd, Mrs. Floyd S. Neeley, Mrs. Wm. W. Fisher, Mrs. Frederick Z. Lewis, Mrs. F. L. Jenkins, and Mrs. Warner James. Its chairman is Mrs. Charles A. Soper, 677 Park Place, Telephone, Prospect 2087-J. Applications for speakers may be made to Mrs. Soper.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS

The Museum has been glad to welcome among its many summer visitors from out of town, Mr. Earl Barnes of Philadelphia, the distinguished educator; Mr. Alexander J. Zelenko, lecturer, Moscow City University, Moscow, Russia, and Mr. Max Selas, Director de la Escuela Normal, Santiago, Chili.

CHILDREN'S MUSEUM LEAGUE

CHARLES LEHMAN, President

Meetings are held regularly Mondays at 4:00 P. M.

THE TREE CLUB

The Junior League of the American Association for the Planting and Preservation of City Trees

WILLIAM HILL, President.

Holds weekly meetings Saturdays at 11:00 A. M.

All meetings of both organizations are conducted by their presidents respectively and programs offered by members are presented at each meeting.

Over twelve thousand children are enrolled in these clubs. Wide-awake boys and girls are invited to join with these members who are enjoying the privileges of the Museum.

AN ECHO FROM OUR EXHIBITS

"You've got a blue dress on and a brown hair ribbon," remarked one girl to another as they were riding on a street car in the Eastern District. "You shouldn't wear so many colors in your clothes." "It's all right to wear different colors if they harmonize," was the rejoinder. "What do you know about harmonizing?" continued the critic. "Well, I've just come from the Children's Museum," answered the defendant, "where I saw the birds and they aren't all the same color."

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LIBRARY NOTES

Several persons who are engaged in Museum work with children have visited the Library during recent months. Of this number, no one has been more welcome than Miss Margaret Tucker, the Curator of a new Children's Museum in Cambridge, Massachusetts. Miss Tucker's experience in Charge of Educational Work in the Children's Museum of Boston and as a teacher in the public schools make her well qualified for her new field of activity.

We have esteemed it a privilege to forward some of our duplicate sets of periodicals, such as "Birds and Nature," and the "Brooklyn Botanic Garden Leaflets" in order that they may serve as the nucleus of a library for the Children's Museum in Cambridge.

During the summer vacation, several boys and girls worked busily for certificates of credit in Nature Study and History, and incidentally wrote compositions which were presented at meetings of the Children's Museum League. In this way, Alvan Roos gave an account of "Paul Revere's Ride," illustrating it by numerous pictures loaned by the Library; and Edwin Urbach compiled a paper about important "Birds of Prey." For several weeks, a High School boy made serious study of various topics in applied science; likewise, Boy Scouts found help in preparing for tests in Astronomy and Forestry.

A distinguished visitor, Max Selas, Director de la Escuela Normal, Santiago, Chili, noted titles of several series of books, such as the "Book of Knowledge," and the "Children's Library of Work and Play," as valuable suggestions for the benefit of South American boys and girls.

The librarian attended the annual conference of the American Library Association, which was held at Asbury Park during the week of June 23-27. Not only was the attendance unusually large, but the program was of a high order and of great variety. On several occasions, five or six sessions were being held at the same time, so that it was physically impossible for one person to listen to all the interesting discussions.

It was inspiring to hear the reports from the directors of library work in camps and hospitals over seas, and to learn what is being accomplished by those who are still "carrying on." A goodly number of librarians still in the national service, were present in uniform. Among many notable addresses were those by Frederick P. Keppel, Third Assistant Secretary of War, and Admiral Albert Gleaves. These officers eloquently expressed their appreciation of "What Books and Library Service Have Meant to the Army and Navy."

Among the pleasant social features were the reunions and dinners of the various Library Schools, and the "Pioneer Dinner," at which were present seventy-five guests who have been members of the Association for twenty or more years.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Industries of the United States** Tuesdays, 4:00 P.M.

October 7 Wheat
14 Cotton
21 Sugar
28 Salmon Industry—Motion Picture **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **Trees** Wednesdays, 4:00 P. M.

October 1 How Trees Grow
8 Some Uses of Trees
15 The Care of Our Trees
22 The Lumber Industry—Motion Picture
29 Fruit Trees—Motion Picture **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Magnetism and Electricity** Thursdays, 4:00 P. M.

October 2 Natural and Artificial Magnets
9 Properties of Magnets
16 Terrestrial Magnetism
23 How Electricity is Produced by Friction
30 The Leyden Jar and Other Condensers **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **The Hawaiian Islands** Fridays, 4:00 P. M.

October 3 Customs and Scenic Wonders—Motion Picture
10 Pineapple and Banana Industries—Motion Picture
17 Rice Harvest and Picking Cocoanuts—Motion Picture
24 Hawaiian Fishermen—Motion Picture
31 "Kilauea": The World's Greatest Active Volcano —Motion Picture **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 10:30 A. M.

October 4 Motion Pictures
11 Motion Pictures
18 Motion Pictures
25 Motion Pictures **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Children of Nature** Saturdays, 2:30 P. M.

October 4 Creatures of the Roadsides
11 Animals of Ponds and Streams
18 Life in the Sea
25 Nurseries of the Woods **A. B. Gallup**

For All Grades: **Special Lectures**

October 13 The Life of Columbus 10:30 A. M. and 2:30 P. M.
27 Colonel Theodore Roosevelt 4:00 P. M.

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.00 P.M.

VOL. VII. BROOKLYN, N. Y. November - December, 1919, January 1920 Nos. 2, 3, 4

A SEPTEMBER MORNING AT THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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ANNOUNCEMENT

We are glad to inform our readers that the *Children's Museum News* is to be printed again as usual after its silence of two months, on account of the printers' strike. Our readers will be pleased to know what has occupied the attention of the children during the busy period of the summer and autumn months.

A SERIES OF FIELD TRIPS

Between August 20 and September 20, five Museum Field trips were taken under the leadership of Miss Isabel D. Bassett, the recently appointed Ranger of Yellowstone National Park. Each trip had a special interest to be developed. The children were therefore prepared before starting by brief talks which gave them an understanding of the features to be observed.

The first trip was a study of rocks and minerals and although it was the shortest one of all, it afforded much of interest. Recent excavations for the Subway along Eastern Parkway had made large piles of sand, gravel, and boulders along the sides. Since this material had been collected by the great ice sheet for hundreds of miles to the north and northwest of this region, it brought within small compass a remarkable diversity of rocks. In these heaps practically all the great divisions of rocks were found and some twenty kinds of minerals were readily identified. After studying types of each kind of rock, the children were quick to pick up others and classify them properly.

The second trip was to Prospect Park, and as it was during the fall bird migration a variety and abundance of bird life was found. The tree life for which this park is unique and the Zoo added much to the trip.

On the third trip which was along the shore at the end of Flatbush Avenue, the children were given an opportunity to see the life of the tidal flats. Fiddler crabs, starfishes, and eel skins created much excitement, for many had never seen these things before.

The fourth trip was one of the most successful. This was to Flatlands, the oldest settlement on Long Island. There the comfortable Dutch Houses side up to the old turnpike, Kings Highway—an important link in the through route between New York and Philadelphia. Facing the green, are the church with its graveyard containing tombstones dating back to 1767, the school site which rests on the foundations of the early schoolhouse, and the town hall—these three making the trinity of a sure foundation in these early communities. From Flatlands they crossed the meadows to Bergen Island to see the two earliest homesteads of Long Island, the Bergen Homestead and the Schenck-Crooke House, with which they had become familiar through the model in the History Room of the

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Museum. This locale with its scattered outlying farms gave one the atmosphere of the early life around New York as few places today can do.

The fifth and last trip was also the longest. It was along the Palisades from Fort Lee Ferry to Dykeman Street Ferry. Here the geology was of the most interest, and the children tried to decide why the Hudson River was salt for 75 miles up stream. Another problem was the contrast between the rock formations on either side of the river—the Palisades with their great trap columns underlain by horizontal sandstone and red shale in the Jersey side and the contorted gneiss on the New York side.

Thirty four children attended these trips. The work accomplished was merely a start along the line of what can be done. The children were enthusiastic and applied well what they had learned at the Museum. As one of them put it, "Things aren't real unless you see them where they grow."

These outings were made possible through the generosity of the Membership Committee of the Woman's Auxiliary. For the sum of Five Hundred Dollars ($500) it will be possible to extend this important work in 1920—to begin the field trips early in the spring and continue them into the late fall. The Museum would appreciate a gift of $500 for this purpose.

THE HOOPER MEMORIAL STAMP PARTY

As a reward to the children of Brooklyn who collected over Six Hundred and Fifty Dollars ($650) by selling stamps for the Hooper Memorial Fund, a party was given to two hundred fifty children on October 25, 1919.

The program of the afternoon provided entertainment and recreation for every child present. It also afforded the Volunteer Instruction Committee of the Woman's Auxiliary, Miss Ella Prosser, Chairman, a good opportunity to make their first bow to a large number of our regular visitors.

Upon arrival, each guest was given a ticket of admission to a given room in the Museum. In this way one hundred children were placed in the Lecture Room, while others were disposed about the Museum twenty five to thirty in a room. In each room two instructors were stationed with materials for an entertaining game about the objects there displayed and in large mysterious boxes were concealed the prizes to be given to the most successful contestants in the games.

At a signal, the motion picture began in the Lecture Room, the games started in other rooms, and entertainment was provided for very young children in a part of the Museum reserved for the purpose. This feature of the program was generously provided for by Mr. Dwight Franklin and Mrs. Jean Dwight Franklin who alternated in the entertainment, Mr. Franklin making large outline drawings of animals and birds for the Children to name and Mrs. Franklin, dressed in the costume of a Hopi

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Indian woman, telling stories of the Indian children of the American Desert.

At the end of the first half hour, the prizes were awarded and a shift was made enabling the children in the Lecture Room to move to a room where they could play games, and the children disposed about the building for the first half hour to spend their second half hour with the movies.

The signal, at the end of the second half hour, concluded the games and movies enabling the children to give their undivided attention and do full justice to the punch and cakes which were served in all the rooms simultaneously.

An hour of enlivening sociability followed and the children were delighted to learn, before they went home, that the Museum games as well as the kind instructors who conducted them had come to stay for the winter and that the day, hour, and instructor for each game had been indicated in a schedule of Museum Games posted on the Bulletin Board.

The grown people who so generously gave their afternoon for the success of the party admitted that they had enjoyed it as much as the children.

Not the least of the happiness of the children was their satisfaction in having contributed to the Hooper Memorial.

FROM OUR GUEST BOOK

Our visitors' record during the past three months has been of unusual interest because it contains the names of workers from all over the world. Among others is that of Miss Julia B. Douglas of Evergreen, Colorado. Miss Douglas maintains a small museum in connection with a rural library. Mr. Julian Dana Carrington, Curator of the University Museum, Cornell University, came for "ideas." Dr. Herbert Haviland Field, formerly of Brooklyn, but now Director of the Concilium Bibliographicum, Zurich, Switzerland, came with Dr. Herman Escher who is Librarian of the Public Library in that city. Other visitors from foreign lands were Miss Mildred Simonds of Vikarabad, Deccan, India, and Mr. Gilbert Archey, Curator of the Canterbury Museum, Christ Church, New Zealand.

From the Museum of the Staten Island Association of Arts and Sciences have come several most appreciative visitors—perhaps because that Museum is doing so much for children. Among them were Mr. Wm. T. Davis of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Chas. W. Leng, Director of the Museum, Mrs. James P. Walsh of the Woman's Auxiliary, Miss Miriam A. Campbell, Docent, besides every officer of their Children's Museum League. These officers accompanied by Miss Campbell were the honored guests at one of our Children's Museum League meetings.

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A GOOD WAY TO SPEND THE SUMMER

One of the happiest little girls in the Bedford Section all last summer was Bernice G. Schubert of 1483 Union Street. Although only six years of age, Bernice has been a member of the Children's Museum League long enough to know the advantage of belonging to the Museum. Having found that any League member who learns forty insects in the Museum collection can borrow a net for the summer months, she decided to earn her net early in the season.

Beginning with the first specimens escaped from the long sleep of winter, and continuing through the entire summer, Bernice captured and prepared not less than seventy five butterflies and moths which she now has in a collection.

She knows them all by name and has shared the pleasure of looking them over with her classmates in Public School No. 167.

In the picture you can see her busily mounting specimens with her collection arranged in Chicklet boxes and displayed around her. Next year she hopes to raise butterflies from the caterpillar stage.

BERNICE G. SCHUBERT MOUNTING HER BUTTERFLIES

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TREE CLUB RALLY

The second Tree Club Rally of the season held on Saturday, December 6, was a great success. Newspapers and magazines were brought in almost continuously until 3:30 P.M. when a meeting was held in the Lecture Room. Arthur Schmalowitz and Alfred Wallis, both boys new to the Museum this year, made their reports as squad captains, stating that 265 pounds of papers and magazines had been collected. Many more might have been added to this goodly number if the Museum had had a longer list of neighbors who are willing to have these eager boys and girls help to rid them of the ever accumulating piles of papers. Mail, telephone, or personal call orders will be attended to promptly after school hours. Hereafter each collector is to be provided with strong cord so that neat, tight bundles may be brought into the Museum. The newspapers are sold to raise funds to plant trees for the health and beauty of Brooklyn.

Museum children like to draw with crayons, and especially to color outline drawings. If the reader has a supply of drawing copybooks stored away somewhere they will be greatly appreciated in the Busy Bee Room.

THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

The first one of the monthly Teas to be held at the Museum was given Friday, December 6, 1919. Members of the Executive Board and of Standing Committees were in charge of the refreshments and entertainment. The large attendance included a great many new members.

ATTENDANCE

Our attendance for the year just ended shows a gain of 21,147 over 1918, a welcome indication of the gradual return to normal conditions.

LECTURES

The lectures have been well attended while nearly every hour of the day has been given to classes coming for special lectures. Many teachers have been unable to arrange for lectures because all the hours have been taken. One school has asked for one lecture every Wednesday until June 1920. Another class has visited the Museum every Thursday for three years.

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LIBRARY NOTES

It was our pleasure to welcome the students of the Library School of the New York Public Library twice during the year 1919. We consider ourselves fortunate to have received annual visits from the school from its organization in 1911 until the present time, and therefore feel gratified to learn that the school year of library visits was "most auspiciously inaugurated by the visit to the Children's Museum," on the afternoon of September 26.

An address about the work of the Library was given to the class by the Librarian. Mrs. William Whittaker of the Woman's Auxiliary acted as hostess, and served delicious refreshments in the Curator's office, after which the Museum exhibits were inspected until the hour of closing.

The Library was called upon to aid in the celebration of several anniversaries which occur during the autumn. In connection with Columbus Day, a picture bulletin was arranged; and in addition plays, poems, articles for compositions, and stories about the Discovery of America were furnished to many readers.

For the observance of a new patriotic day, the Birthday of Theodore Roosevelt, an interesting exhibit of pictures was shown. Among them were photographs of Roosevelt as Colonel of the Rough Riders, as President of the United States, and as a naturalist and traveller in Africa. A pleasing reproduction in color represents the "President and his Family at Oyster Bay," in 1904. There was a great demand for books about the Life of Roosevelt, including special topics, such as "Roosevelt—American," Roosevelt as Governor, as President, as Arbiter of the Russo-Japanese War, and as Naturalist and Explorer. Quotations from his own addresses, and poems about him, notably those written by his sister, Mrs. Douglas Robinson, were provided for many school exercises.

There were various calls for plays, and for incidental costumes needed for pageants and special exercises to commemorate the Signing of the Armistice in 1918. Similar requests were made in relation to the observance of the three-hundredth anniversary of the Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, and of the Inauguration of the House of Burgesses in Virginia, in 1619.

The birthday of the "Hoosier Poet," James Whitcomb Riley, gave opportunity for special exercises in which poems of this favorite author had a part; particularly, "The Name of Old Glory," "When the Frost is on the Pumpkin," and "A Life Lesson."

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Wonders of Nature** Tuesdays, 4.00 P. M.

January 6 Mountains—The Alps
13 The Grand Canyon of the Colorado—Motion Picture
20 Glaciers
27 Geysers—Motion Pictures **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **American History** Wednesdays, 4.00 P. M.

January 7 The First Explorers
14 The Settlement of the Middle Atlantic States
21 The Colonization of New England
28 The French and Indian Wars **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Electricity** Thursdays, 4.00 P. M.

January 8 The Telegraph
15 Electric Bells
22 Induction Coils
29 Motors and Dynamos **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of Africa** Fridays, 4.00 P. M.

January 9 Cape Town and Vicinity
16 Diamond Mines of Kimberly
23 No Lecture
30 British East Africa **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Motion Pictures** Saturdays, 10.30 A. M.

January 10 The Forest Guardian
17 Making Friends with the Wild
24 Fair Play for Wild Life
31 Bird Life Scenes **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Reptiles** Saturdays, 2.30 P. M.

January 10 Snakes
17 Turtles
24 Lizards and Swifts
31 Crocodiles and Alligators **A. B. Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.
From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.
From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

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VOL. VII. BROOKLYN, N. Y., FEBRUARY 1920 No. 5

THE OLD-FASHIONED HOME OF A
NEW-FASHIONED MUSEUM

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PRESENTATION TO THE TRUSTEES OF THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES OF THE INITIAL SUM OF TEN THOUSAND DOLLARS FOR THE FRANKLIN W. HOOPER LOAN COLLECTION

That was a notable occasion, when on Friday, January twenty-third, members of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum and a large number of other contributors, to the Franklin W. Hooper Loan Collection, gathered at the Children's Museum to witness the presentation to the Trustees of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences of the initial sum of Ten Thousand Dollars toward the fund to be collected for a memorial to the man so largely instrumental in creating the Children's Museum in Brooklyn.

Although the day was a stormy one, the Museum was filled when Mrs. I. Sherwood Coffin, President of the Auxiliary, welcomed the guests in a happy manner and introduced Mr. William H. Fox, Director of Museums. Mr. Fox declared himself proud of his connection not only with the parent institution, but with the Children's Museum as well. He took pride in the fact that the idea originated in Brooklyn and that it stood for a model for the cities of the world. This thought Mr. Fox considered wonderfully inspiring. "Nothing is too good for the child," he said, "who is the first point of attack in visual education—the basic idea of the Museum."

Mr. Fox said he was looking forward to the coming of a new Children's Museum, and thought that the things taking place through the interest aroused by the Woman's Auxiliary all tended to bring the goal nearer.

"Such an organization," he said, "has power to extend the work of the Museum, until it will in every sense do all we expect of it in developing the idea that all that is best is necessary for the child." "Such a mission," said Mr. Fox, "is a noble, beautiful, and inspiring one."

Mrs. Coffin called upon Miss Gallup, Curator of the Museum for a few words.

Miss Gallup spoke warm appreciation of the generous gift to the Museum and said that Brooklyn would, in consequence, take a forward step in education. "There is a temptation," she said, "to let one's imagination go in trying to estimate the value of such a gift, but really no such estimate is possible at this moment because the good to Brooklyn far transcends our present ability to see." Miss Gallup spoke of the Museum

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as an open door for children to a knowledge of the wonderful things of the world.

Mrs. Schoonhoven, Chairman of the Executive Board, when called upon, said, "It is certainly a happy day when one can stop for just a moment and rejoice in something done." She explained that the object of the Auxiliary, as an organization, was to make the community sit up and take notice.

Mrs. Schoonhoven referred to a big piece of work now in hand that aims to train the foreign child in American history; the dream of the workers being to offset family influence and environment, through an understanding and appreciation of American institutions.

The speaker told of a cherished vision of some day, in the near future, bringing children to the Museum for special work, in a wonderful big Bus, labelled "Children's Museum." And maybe mothers might also be brought there in a need quite as great as that of the child. "The Auxiliary," said Mrs. Schoonhoven, "has a way of making dreams come true."

Mr. Charles M. Higgins when asked to speak paid a warm tribute to Professor Hooper, and lamented that the weather prevented the assembling of the big men of the community for what he thought ought to be the big show of Brooklyn.

Mr. Higgins congratulated the Auxiliary on the great thing they had accomplished in doing just such a work as Professor Hooper would have approved. Mr. Higgins expressed great regret, that something more personal in the way of a memorial, such as a statue, or a bas relief, had not been erected to the honor of Professor Hooper before now, but felt that this might lead to a mark of fuller appreciation of the man whom he had always thought of as the reincarnation of some great Greek scholar, who had brought his Greek ideas into a modern world.

Mr. Higgins presented to the ladies of the Executive Board, a bouquet of rare and beautiful roses in recognition and appreciation of the work of the Auxiliary in honoring the memory of Franklin W. Hooper.

Mrs. Coffin in accepting the roses, assured Mr. Higgins, that the memorial as planned would grow with the years, and doing good in his name, keep Professor Hooper's memory always fresh.

Dr. C. Stuart Gager, Director of the Botanic Garden, said that while he had not anticipated being called upon to speak, he felt greatly honored to be identified with such an occasion.

He felt that Professor Hooper's work in the Brooklyn Institute was a most unusual and wonderful accomplishment. Dr. Gager told of a visit to him of a woman sent out by the State College of Delaware, for ideas on visual instruction, to be used in the education of rural children in

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that State. "By all means," advised Dr. Gager, "go to the Children's Museum, nowhere else will you get more helpful or constructive ideas."

Mr. A. Augustus Healy, President of the Board of Trustees of the Brooklyn Institute of Arts and Sciences having arrived, Mrs. Coffin in a graceful little address, presented to him in the name of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum, a check and Liberty Bonds, to the amount of Ten thousand Dollars.

Mr. Healy in accepting expressed great pleasure in the magnificent gift, meant for such an excellent purpose, and promised that when the matter was put before the Trustees at their next meeting, there would be a formal recognition of the generosity and efficiency of the Woman's Auxiliary.

"The extension in this way of the work of the Children's Museum," said Mr. Healy, "will be a benefaction to Brooklyn, and it was a happy thought to make this gift in connection with Professor Hooper's large part in the creation of the Children's Museum. Nothing more to the liking of Mr. Hooper could be planned, as education of all kinds was a life passion with him."

Mr. Healy said, "This is not the only memorial to be placed in honor of Mr. Hooper. It is expected that a bronze memorial, will soon be completed and erected in the Brooklyn Museum."

"This, with the other, will continue to perpetuate his name," said Mr. Healy, "and I accept this gift with a deep sense of gratitude and appreciation of the excellent work of the Woman's Auxiliary."

At the close of the ceremony of presentation, Mrs. Coffin extended an invitation to those present to partake of the refreshments served in the Library.

An excellent orchestra furnished music, and a most auspicious occasion came to a happy end.

MAY E. JENKINS
Recording Secretary of the Woman's Auxiliary

ARRANGEMENTS FOR FIELD TRIPS

In the last issue of the NEWS we called attention to the fact that the sum of Five Hundred Dollars would enable us to conduct field trips for the children during the year 1920. We are glad to announce that one fifth of this sum has been raised by friends of the Museum and that a member of the Auxiliary says the other Four Hundred Dollars is in sight. With this generous support, it will be possible to begin taking children to the fields, the woods, and the seashore early in the season of 1920.

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MUSEUM GAMES

The Museum Games, which began with the Hooper Memorial Stamp Party last October, have become an established fact, a fact that is more indelibly impressed on the Docent and Volunteer Instructors every day. The children ask for the games continually, and play with such zest that a very marked improvement is noted in the ability of our young visitors to observe and study the collections.

A long list of several hundred questions has been prepared for each room. The answer to these may be found by examining the objects on view, by reading the labels, and by studying in the Library. Each question is written on a card of a color which indicates the room where the game is to be played. An instructor presides over the game in accordance with the schedule of games which is now familiar to many of the children.

She assists them in selecting questions which, after answering, they may keep for the duration of the game. At the end of fifteen or twenty minutes each one in turn reads his questions and the answers to the other members of the group. The one who gives the largest number correctly receives a small prize.

In finding information the children sometimes need to consult the dictionary for definitions of unfamiliar words used in the labels. A geography is also quite as essential, because children always find the places where animals, birds, and minerals are found, or places referred to in the geography and history games.

The prize is usually a small colored picture of an animal, a bird, a place of historic interest, or a natural wonder. It serves to recognize the child's effort to do good work, and gives him visible evidence thereof to present at home to his parents or at school to his teacher.

A shell game is provided for very little children who do not know how to read. This game is played as follows: A large number of shells, duplicates of those on display, are placed on a table. Each child is permitted to take one in his hand and see if he can find another like it. The instructor then tells him its name and some interesting fact about it. A prize is given to every one who learns ten shells.

One of the most gratifying results of the Museum Games is the added zest given to the various courses of study which a child may work out at any time. Children who become familiar with objects in the Museum by answering questions in playing the games are more encouraged to attempt the harder work of completing the courses of study. For instance, a child who plays the geography game so many times that he can answer nearly all of the geography questions takes pleasure in working by himself until he

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can answer *all* the questions. It is merely the next step in progress when the boy asks for the pamphlet giving the requirements for geography study. Then the work becomes individual rather than collective. After one course has been completed the tendency is to take up other courses until enough credits have been earned to win a medal.

AN AMERICANIZATION PROGRAM

Arrangements have been made to utilize the resources of the Museum in combination with other resources that have been placed at our disposal through the generosity of the Woman's Auxiliary for the conduct of an experiment in Americanization. Opportunity will be given for a group of forty children and their teacher to spend one morning each week for five weeks in the Children's Museum, and there under the guidance of an expert teacher, learn important lessons about America—the land of opportunity. The Motor Corps of the National League for Women's Service and the Motor Corps of the American Red Cross have kindly arranged to transport the children from the school to the Museum and to return them to the school after each visit.

For several years the unique Historical Collection in our Museum has presented American History only. Its purpose is the induction of civic and national spirit and of loyalty to the principle that liberty means obedience to law.

Its miniature models are designed that each may tell its story at a glance and also offer more on closer observation. The labels bring out underlying historical motives, their chronological position, and the reasons for the choice of subject. Thus, first attracted by what is pictured, the child becomes interested in the whole story and is led by easy degrees into the study of history.

Supplementing this exhibition material is a large collection of colored lantern slides, a series of motion picture films, and the best library of American History for young people to be found anywhere.

REQUESTS FOR PAMPHLETS

The Museum is in receipt of many requests for its publications. These come from Universities, Normal Schools, and editors of magazines in various parts of the United States and in England. There has been also a demand for photographs and articles for publication. One Museum from the Middle West asked for a set of lantern slides illustrative of our work for use in its campaign for a new building.

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LIBRARY NOTES

The Library records its grateful appreciation of a gift from Dr. A. W. Lawrence, 278 Jefferson Avenue, Brooklyn, of a valuable collection of books about Shells. The most notable among them is a wonderful series of forty unbound "parts," comprising nine consecutive volumes, V to XIII inclusive, of the "Manual of Conchology." These volumes are devoted to the Gasteropods or Univalve Mollusks, are fully illustrated by beautiful colored plates, and contain monographs upon many important families such as the Cowries, Cones, and Olive Shells.

The publication of this monumental work, the "Manual of Conchology," was begun in 1879 by George Washington Tryon, and has been continued from 1888 up to the present time by Henry A. Pilsbry. The parts have been issued at periodic intervals for forty years by the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences, and now form a classic library of forty volumes. The publication is still being continued.

Two attractive Bird books have been added to the Library recently. One of them is a a new book by Thornton W. Burgess called the "Burgess Bird Book for Children." It is written in a fascinating style, and describes in story form the food and nesting habits of sparrows, bluebirds, woodpeckers, and many other familiar songsters. For example, we are told in one chapter how "Peter Rabbit sees Rosebreast and the Scarlet Tanager," and in another, "Peter discovers two old Friends, the White-breasted Nuthatch and the Brown Creeper." The book is illustrated by fifty-seven charming pictures in color by Louis Agassiz Fuertes.

The other volume is called simply the "Book of Birds," and was edited and abridged from the text of the Comte de Buffon, having been translated from the original French by Benjamin Charles. This book was printed in 1841, and contains interesting accounts of various birds which are grouped together as Birds of Prey, Climbing Birds, Wading Birds and Web-Footed Birds. The quaint, colored illustrations are lithographs, the work of Victor Adam, and represent one hundred and fifty species of birds.

The coming of Christmas was naturally a subject of absorbing interest during the month of December. In anticipation of this children's festival, the corner of the Library under the clock was devoted to representations of Santa Claus and the Christmas Tree. The bulletin boards in the adjoining hall contained similar festive decorations, and in an alcove reproductions of the Madonna were displayed. Lists of plays, poems, and stories gave pleasure to many readers, and aided public and private schools in the preparation of Christmas programmes.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **The Human Body** Tuesdays, 4.00 P.M.

February 3 The Frame of the Body
10 The Blood and Its Circulation
17 How and Why We Breathe
24 How We See and Hear **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **American History** Wednesdays, 4.00 P. M.

February 4 Causes of the Revolution
11 Important Battles of the Revolution
18 The Close of the Revolution
25 The War of 1812 **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Electricity** Thursdays, 4.00 P. M.

February 5 The Telephone
12 Special Lecture—*see below*
19 X Rays
26 Wireless Telegraphy **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of South America** Fridays, 4.00 P. M.

February 6 Brazil
13 The Argentine
20 Chili and Bolivia
27 Peru and Ecuador **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Motion Pictures** Saturdays, 10.30 A. M.

February 7 Lumbering
14 What a Careless Hunter Can Do
21 Fruit Trees
28 Pineapples and Other Tropical Plants **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: Saturdays, 2.30 P. M.

Stories of Animals in the Museum

February 7 Foxes
14 The Beaver and the Muskrat
21 The Armadillo and Its Relatives
28 Apes and Monkeys **A. B. Gallup**

For All Grades: **Special Lectures**

February 12 Lincoln the American 10.30 A. M. and 2.30 P. M. **A. B. Gallup**

February 23 Washington the Father of His Country 10.30 A. M. and 2.30 P. M. **M. D. Lee**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

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VOL. VII. BROOKLYN, N. Y., MARCH 1920 No. 6

FORTY 7B BOYS OF PUBLIC SCHOOL 84 COMING TO THE MUSEUM FOR THE FIRST LESSON IN AMERICANIZATION

IN THE BACKGROUND AT THE LEFT IS THE RED CROSS AMBULANCE WHICH BROUGHT THEM THROUGH THE SLUSH AND FOG ON FEBRUARY THIRD

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AMERICANIZATION LESSONS

Various as are the ideas about how to make good Americans out of the foreign elements with us, there is probably always one underlying conviction, that a knowledge of American ideals and institutions will lead to a love of our common country.

Acting upon this belief, The Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum has begun an experiment with some children of foreign extraction in the Brownsville district. The Board of Education is permitting an entire class of 7B boys in Public School 84 to come to the Museum with their teacher for an hour every Tuesday morning.

The first lesson may be called "getting acquainted" with the Museum and the instructor. Discipline was kept quite informal in an effort to establish a friendly play spirit. The purpose was to guide the children to discover certain American ideals and consequently to dispel any didactic atmosphere that might hang about the experiment.

The boys, divided into squads, devoted the first half of the lesson to a study of the models in the Geography and History Rooms. After that, they all sat on the floor to talk about what had interested them. It developed that several squads had been impressed with the Dutch settlers as represented by two types of models—the Patroons who were the wealthy, landed gentry of those early days and the Dutch Trader, who belonged to the peasant class. But as one boy pointed out, even class distinctions did not prevent the common need of water which all had to obtain from wells in their yards. The instructor led the class to a consideration of the advance from the old time well to the modern aqueduct and water system, which was the work of the greatest engineers, masons, and plumbers of the present day and which was made possible only by the action of the City Government in spending millions of dollars to create and protect such a system for the benefit of all classes. Other hardships of the early settlers leading to the development of this country into a position of real help to the world were freely considered.

The chief ideas which the instructor wishes to bring out during the Course are obvious enough. The first will be that America is a land of democratic opportunity. This will be developed principally through a study of Abraham Lincoln leading up to a dramatization of the Gettysburg Address. Then a feeling of the dignity of work—a respect for work well done, may be appreciated through the achievements of such men as

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FIRST IMPRESSIONS IN THE HISTORY ROOM

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Booker T. Washington and Joseph Pulitzer. The fact that birth and position count in America for much less than merit and accomplishment can be illustrated in the careers of Thomas A. Edison, Clara Barton, and John Wanamaker. The obligation of the citizen to his fellows and to the government can be traced in the lives of Andrew Carnegie and Theodore Roosevelt.

THE BOYS AND THE AMERICANIZATION INSTRUCTOR MRS. DUDLEY MILES ALL SAT ON THE FLOOR TO TALK ABOUT THE EXHIBITS IN THE HISTORY ROOM

Two prizes of Three and Two Dollars each have been offered. These will be awarded to the boy who is most successful in preparing and acting the dramatization of the Gettysburg Address and writing his impressions of the Course.

It is the belief of those who are conducting the work that by these activities the boys may come to understand better what America stands for and to render their country a more devoted service.

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AMERICANIZATION THE NEED OF THE HOUR

In his address at the Annual Meeting of the Board of Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History held in New York on February second, President Henry Fairfield Osborn placed strong emphasis upon the need of Americanization. This, Dr. Osborn believes, can be accomplished only through the thorough training of our youth according to American ideals, and he mentions the museums with the other institutions, designed for instruction and inspiration, which form the structure on which Americanization rests.

TWO BUSY DAYS

The two holidays in February brought large numbers of children to the Museum. While the chief attractions were the lectures about Lincoln and Washington, both illustrated with colored lantern slides, there were many visitors who found much to interest them in all parts of the building. Children made constant and insistent demands for the Museum Games which have become popular through the effective work of the Volunteer Instructors of the Woman's Auxiliary. Parents who arrived with very young children stayed several hours and did not leave the building until they had expressed their warm appreciation of such a good place for entertaining small children in bad weather.

One teacher, with her class from a Manhattan High School, devoted the entire day to the Children's Museum, this being her second visit with pupils during the past two weeks. A large group of high school girls, escorted by the Assistant Superintendent of the Bushwick Avenue Sunday School, spent the afternoon enjoying the lecture, the collections, and the games. These girls constituted the fourth recent delegation from the Sunday School.

THE CAMBRIDGE MUSEUM FOR CHILDREN

Cambridge, Massachusetts has a Museum for children. It is the result of work which has been carried on for over three years under the name of Cambridge Museum Extension.

This museum extension meant that the school department was allowed the use of the University Museum for classes. These came regularly with their teachers in school hours for illustrated lectures and trips to the exhibits further illustrating the subjects of the lectures. A committee of women first put this plan on foot by paying for the lantern slides and other illustrative material. The Museum now has its own headquarters at No. 5 Jarvis Street, Cambridge, in a small building which Harvard University allows it to share with the geological department. In speaking of its new home, a writer says, "The best part of the new headquarters is that it can be the children's own."

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THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY

The Speakers' Bureau held its January Meeting at the Museum. Nearly every member was present and offered a report of results obtained by interviewing Principals and Heads of Departments in regard to increasing the usefulness of the Museum to the schools. The Committee had found uniformly cordial responses to their offers of information and had received a great many requests for lecture schedules and pamphlets descriptive of our collections and work.

The meeting concluded with luncheon in the Geography Room given by the Committee of Museum Helpers, Mrs. H. S. Martin, Chairman.

Two card parties were held early in February for the benefit of the Museum, one given by the Social Aid Committee at the home of Mrs. Ellison Hillyer, and the other given by the Membership Committee at the home of Mrs. Don C. Seitz. The proceeds will be used to extend the Americanization Program at the Museum and to provide field trips for the children during the year 1920.

The Membership Committee reported eighty five (85) new members, at their meeting on February eighteenth, which brings the total membership to 915. It is expected that a thousand members will be enrolled by the annual meeting on April ninth.

The Friendly Tourists' Club held their regular monthly meeting in the Geography Room on February the fourth. Miss Lee gave an illustrated lecture on South America, the country which members of the club have been studying in recent weeks. The guests adjourned at four o'clock for a tour of the Museum, a social hour, and refreshments in Miss Gallup's office.

A NEW EXHIBIT

A box of most beautiful Florida shells, Pompano shells, *Donax variabilis*, Say, and Scallops, *Pecten irradians* are on exhibition in the Busy Bee Room. These were collected by Miss Mary G. Beckwith of Sarasola-Florida and are arranged with greatest care to show their brilliant colors to best advantage. The Donax shells are mounted in pairs so that from a distance they look like small butterflies or tiny bows of satin. The scallops range from one fourth to one and one half inches in diameter and from pink to brightest orange in color. The most interesting pair is one which few would suspect to be a pair at all for the upper valve is gray and rather flat while the lower valve is pure white and quite rounded. Children seeing the pair notice that some shells, like the fish and birds, exhibit protective coloration.

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LIBRARY NOTES

The Library has received a unique gift of eight artistic volumes of great intrinsic value from Dr. George Frederick Kunz, Gem Expert of Tiffany and Company, New York, and Honorary Curator of Precious Stones at the American Museum of Natural History. Each volume contains the autograph of the donor, "For the Library of the Children's Museum of the Brooklyn Institute with the appreciation of the author, George F. Kunz."

An attractive little book bound in dark blue morocco, which will be consulted frequently by young readers, is called "Natal Stones," with the subtitle "Birth Stones: Sentiments and Superstitions Associated with Precious Stones." One large volume is devoted to "The Magic of Jewels and Charms," and is illustrated by numerous color plates and double tones. This is a companion volume to Dr. Kunz's "Curious Lore of Precious Stones" already upon our Library shelves. Another book treats exhaustively of "Rings for the Finger from the Earliest Times to the Present." "The Known References of Precious Stones in Shakespeare's Works" are given in another book, which bears the title "Shakespeare and Precious Stones."

A scholarly work of great value entitled "Ivory and the Elephant in Art, in Archaeology, and in Science" provides "information regarding the evolution, distribution, and habits of the elephant," in addition to a full treatment of "the art of ivory carving and the beautiful productions of this art." Undoubtedly the most coveted volume of all is the exquisite "Book of the Pearl," with its ornate binding and superb illustrations, together with an elaborate discussion of the structure and forms of pearls, sources of pearls, famous pearls and collections, pearl fisheries, and the values and commerce of pearls.

Two beautiful volumes appropriately bound in French blue, give accounts of "The Dedication of the Statue of Joan of Arc in the City of New York," and "The Ceremonies Attending the Opening of the Joan of Arc Exhibition." These volumes are fully illustrated by photographs, and are inscribed "With the compliments of the Joan of Arc Committee, George F. Kunz, President."

Among the recent visitors to the Library were two teachers, Miss Marta Sorensen of Arendal, Norway, and Miss Amelie Canradi, of Kristiania, who were greatly impressed with the educational privileges which are freely offered to children in this country. A young Japanese woman, a student in the Library Course at Simmons College, was much interested in our collection of books and in our methods of work with children.

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Grades 7A or 7B: **Birds of Prospect Park** Tuesdays, 4.00 P.M.

March 2 The Migration of Birds
9 Birds Seen in Prospect Park in the Spring
16 Birds Seen in Prospect Park in the Summer
23 Water Birds in Prospect Park
30 Birds of Prey in Prospect Park **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **American History** Wednesdays, 4.00 P. M.

March 3 The Mexican War
10 The Beginning of the Civil War
17 The End of the Civil War
24 The Spanish-American War
31 The American Navy **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Light and Sound** Thursdays, 4.00 P. M.

March 4 General Principles of Light
11 Optical Instruments
18 General Principles of Sound
25 Applications of Sound **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography in Literature** Fridays, 4.00 P. M.

March 5 A Literary Ramble through New York State
12 A Literary Ramble through England
19 The Shakespeare Country
26 The Robert Burns Country **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Motion Pictures** Saturdays, 10.30 A. M.

March 6 Making Friends with the Wild
13 Fair Play for Wild Life
20 The Forest Preserve
27 Engineering Work of the Division of Waters **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Fur-bearing Animals** Saturdays, 2.30 P. M.

March 6 The Beaver and the Muskrat
13 Foxes
20 Seals
27 The Mink and the Ermine **A. B. Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

1920

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.00 P.M.

VOL. VII. BROOKLYN, N. Y., APRIL-MAY, 1920 No. 7, 8

A PROBLEM OF THE HOUR

DRAMATIS PERSONAE

Left to right standing

Everyman, Samuel Neuschatz
America, Lucy Tumolillo
Labor, Alfred Anastasio
Peace, Sadie Holmstrohm
Capital, Oscar Goldenberg

Left to right seated

Page, Alfred Julian
Patriotism, Ernest Piluso
Bolshevism, Frank Esposito

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A PROBLEM OF THE HOUR

The children in the picture on the title page are pupils of Public School No. 46, the costumed actors of a play written by Miss Lillian T. Duffy. The striking lesson of pure Americanism in this little drama led to its production for the Children's Museum several times in connection with our Americanization Program. It was given at the Annual Luncheon of the Woman's Auxiliary on April 9, at meetings of our Americanization classes, and at a reception in the Museum for members of the Rembrandt Club and their friends.

The practical value of this play, as an Americanizing influence, was felt by all who saw it and gave us opportunity to make several new engagements for the young company. The story of the conditions which inspired Miss Duffy is given below in her own words.

"Down around the docks in the heart of an Italian settlement near the Hamilton Ferry, is Public School No. 46. In this school nearly every child has a father or a brother who earns his living working around the wharves or in the ship yards. These children saw and heard much about strikes. They hated strikes and wondered why members of their households must stand idle and lose their pay while there was plenty of work to be done and they were willing to do it.

"These boys and girls knew their relatives were not responsible for strikes. They wondered who was to blame and if there might not be a way of avoiding such conditions.

"Some of the little boys talked the matter over among themselves and finally brought it before their teacher. After much discussion all agreed that neither the men who owned the plants nor the workmen were fond of strikes and that any acts of violence which were perpetrated must be the work of some very 'un-American' person. Furthermore they decided that all internal strife was dangerous for the country itself.

"After thinking out a possible solution of the problem these children felt it their duty to tell other boys and girls what was in their minds with the hope that in years to come when they will be voting citizens 'strike' will be an unknown word.

"Because these little people of foreign extraction showed such interest in the welfare of the land their mothers and fathers looked to for protection,

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their teacher sought to help them by writing a play which expressed their feelings about strikes.

"This little play told how strikes menaced America and how there could be no peace where there existed an unfriendly feeling between the workmen and the plant owners. It showed how America was willing to give the poor man just as fair a trial as the rich one. It pointed out that neither the workmen nor the capitalists were responsible for any of the horrors of strikes. This evil work was thought to be by the hand of a Bolshevist. The play showed that both Labor and Capital were good Americans, for both made concessions and became fast friends so that Peace might abide in our country. Peace was only too willing to do this after Bolshevism was exiled to the Land of Never to Be.

"After the teacher read the play to the pupils, the parts were given out. Everyone was anxious to receive a part and each promised that if chosen he would work so hard with his English that no audience would connect him with any country but his own America. How proud was the little Italian girl who was given the part of America, and how equally proud was the flaxen haired girl from Norway who was to portray the character of Peace! Two of the parts were given to Russian boys and the remaining parts to Italian boys. Each felt in his heart a deep love for America and each strove to say, in flawless English, his part of the play which was to teach a lesson to all good Americans."

REPORT OF THE AMERICANIZATION COMMITTEE OF THE WOMAN'S AUXILIARY OF THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM BY MARGARET T. FISHER, CHAIRMAN

Read at the Annual Meeting of the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum in the Hotel Bossert, April 9, 1920

In the largest sense of the term, every activity of the Children's Museum makes for better Americans and better Brooklynites. Therefore, the work of each Committee in our Auxiliary has for its sole purpose the welfare of the children of Brooklyn through a more intelligent use of the Museum.

In this time of social upheaval and economic stress, we see as never before the need of special effort to make good citizens of the vast numbers of children who are to be the voters of the near future.

In the last reduction, this process of making good citizens is only a matter of thoroughness in education which hitherto we have been inclined

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to turn over in its entirety to the Public Schools. We have been forgetful of the fact that, if a teacher with forty pupils puts that class through the formal work necessary to graduate from one of our elementary schools, she has little time or strength left for the individual attention and personal contact that go far towards making the real man and woman.

I wish that each one of you might come with me to the graduating exercises of a public school situated in any cosmopolitan section of our city. Do not enter a side door and sit as a guest of honor on the platform, but wait with the jostling crowd outside until the doors are opened, then push your way in and find a seat as best you can in the gallery. Notice well the people about you. On your right, a father who has to have the program translated for him; on your left, a mother with a shawl over her head. All around you is the babble of foreign tongues, with only here and there a bit of English, and that so crippled by foreign idioms, you can scarcely understand it. These people are the proud mothers, fathers, aunts, uncles, and friends, the real home folk of the graduates. They have furnished the background of life to those young Americans, the product of our Public Schools, who so eagerly await the coveted diploma. These fathers and mothers have had no part in the making of our country. When the children of such parents read American History, they do not thrill with pride because of a forebear who fought perhaps with Washington, Sherman, or Grant, or helped with their energy and thrift to conquer our great West. Intellectually they are trained to recite our history, to appreciate our institutions, and to respect our form of government, but emotionally or spiritually they are almost untouched. Beneath the stratum of this acquired education is always the pull of the blood.

To offset this instinct, to get some lasting hold on these children, this lack of an American background must be supplied.

When the Woman's Auxiliary of the Children's Museum wished to take its part in solving this problem of the day, the most natural and obvious method was to help the Museum to cooperate with the Public Schools in presenting American History and Civics to our future voters. In this cooperation the Museum supplies that which it is impossible for the teacher to provide (with the limited facilities, crowded classes, and necessary routine work); namely, what we may call an American background for the intellectual life of the child. The person whose intellect is overtrained to the neglect of the senses is perhaps a greater menace to the community than the illiterate. It is the unbalanced man, the intellectual monstrosity who becomes the Bolshevistic or Anarchistic leader.

To forward this good citizenship work in our Auxiliary the Americanization Committee was organized. An instructor was engaged and arrangements were made with Superintendent Viet to hold classes in the Children's

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Museum. Since February the Fourth, a class of forty boys from Public School No. 84, with their teacher, Mr. Kaplan, has been coming to the Children's Museum every Tuesday morning for a new kind of History and Civics lesson. When the boys enter the Museum, the rigid discipline necessary in school ceases. Friendliness and comradeship take its place. The teacher and her assistants become hostesses to so many guests. There is a lively feeling of festivity in the air. A special effort is made to get at the real boy, to discover his outlook on life.

The course has been based upon biographical studies of some of our greatest Americans, the teacher helping the boys sense what it was that made these men great; to feel a certain pride in them, and to aspire to follow in their footsteps. This is done not so much by lecture or presentation of facts to the pupils as by helping them to visualize incidents that made up the lives of these men. Abstract ideas which the pupils learned from books in schools are rendered concrete in the Museum storehouse of treasures. There they find the model of a log cabin such as Lincoln lived in. They see the proud Cavalier Coming to Call and glimpse the life of a Southern gentleman. They are interested in The Patroon and His Family and envy the Dutch Trader his immediate contact with the Indian. They make delightful comparison of models of the Merrimac and Monitor with a modern battleship. Unconsciously by sight and touch they associate these concrete objects with the facts they have learned and thereby get some idea of the forces that have gone into the making of America. The History of our Country is brought close home to them and from this contact with these specific representations it seems in greater measure to be their own History. They feel the personal link with our Country's past which is necessary to make them loyal to our future. The desire arises to serve in some way, to belong. This is the first principle of the right kind of citizenship.

The actual results of a movement of this kind we do not attempt to measure. They are largely indefinite and slow to appear. If, however, for even one boy the horizon has been enlarged and a broader vision of life opened up for him, our efforts have not been in vain.

A little eight-year-old girl looking at the New England model— 'The Minister Comes to Call," exclaimed, "Oh mercy! They look just like real. I'd love to live there."

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IN THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

I heard a happy humming
As though a swarm of bees
Over a new-found garden
Were voicing ecstasies.

It came from eager children
Who thronged upstairs and down,
Discovering fresh wonders,
Alert from toes to crown.

They listened to a legend,
And joined in nature-games,
Calling the bugs and beetles
By learned Latin names.

They buzzed about strange countries,
They burrowed deep in books,
And graced the maps and pictures
With rapt and reverent looks.

America extended
Her arms to every child,
And little foreign faces
Looked up at her and smiled.

The air was warm with welcome,
They felt as free to roam
Through each enchanted chamber
As if they were at home.

And many a drop of nectar
Their young souls stored away
To make a golden honey
To sweeten life someday.

Anne Lloyd.

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LIBRARY NOTES

Two librarians, Miss Anne T. Erwin and Miss Jessie L. Kerr, who are attending the "Open Courses Offered to Experienced Librarians" by the Library School of the New York Public Library, paid a visit to the Children's Museum recently. Miss Erwin is in charge of the Pack Memorial Public Library of Asheville, North Carolina, and is now making plans for a new children's room. She is an enthusiastic bird-lover, and was therefore much delighted with the Nature exhibits in the Children's Museum, and with our collection of Nature books. Miss Kerr is connected with the Public Library of Union City, Indiana, and noted titles of recent books to supplement our printed lists, issued a few years ago.

Miss H. Mary Spangler, formerly librarian of a High School Library in Hartford, Connecticut, visited us on February 14. Miss Spangler found many useful hints for high school librarians in the Courses of Study and other publications of the Children's Museum. These suggestions were especially appreciated, inasmuch as at that particular time the opportunities for observation of educational work in Manhattan and Brooklyn were greatly lessened by the prevalence of influenza and bad transit facilities.

There have been many busy days in the Library in spite of icy streets and severely cold weather for several weeks. Probably the most continuously crowded days were the holidays commemorating the Birthdays of Washington and Lincoln. On these anniversaries, large numbers of children read stories about the two great Presidents, of whom Theodore Roosevelt once said: "There have been other men as great, and other men as good. But in all the history of mankind, there are no other two great men as good as these, no other two good men as great."

The Library was greatly congested during the afternoons when Miss Lee lectured about the Civil War. Standing room was at a premium, and books treating of the Civil War were not numerous enough to meet the demand.

We record with pleasure a considerable use of the Library by High School boys and girls. "Community Civics" has been for some time a topic of general interest. Drawings have been made of the Ashokan Reservoir and copious notes written about the Water Supply of New York City, the Health Department, Child Welfare Board, and the Criminal and Civil Courts.

Grammar School girls have obtained suggestions for making posters illustrating kindness to animals, and have found anecdotes showing the faithfulness of dogs and horses. They have prepared "lectures" about such subjects as the Capture of Fort Donelson, the Red Cross, John Brown, Daniel Webster, and Henry Clay.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Natural Wonders in the United States** — Tuesdays, 4.00 P.M.

May 4 The Yellowstone National Park
11 The Grand Canyon of the Colorado
18 A Trip through Colorado—*Motion Picture*
25 The Yosemite Valley

M. D. Lee

Grades 5A or 5B: **Invertebrates** — Wednesdays, 4.00 P. M.

May 5 Sponges and Corals
12 Starfish and Sea Urchins
19 Snails and other Mollusks
26 Lobsters and Crabs

M. D. Lee

Grades 8A or 8B: **Historical Stories** — Thursdays, 4.00 P. M.

May 6 Evangeline
13 The Courtship of Miles Standish
20 The Lady of the Lake
27 The Ride of Paul Revere—*Motion Picture*

M. D. Lee

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of Neighboring Countries** — Fridays, 4.00 P. M.

May 7 Mexico
14 Canada
21 Cuba
28 The West Indies

M. D. Lee

Primary Grades: **Motion Pictures** — Saturdays, 10.30 A. M.

May 1 Apple Industry
8 Olive Industry
15 Bird Life
22 Cotton Culture

M. D. Lee

Primary Grades: **Getting Acquainted with Wild Flowers** — Saturdays, 2.30 P. M.

May 1 How to Study a Flower
8 Wild Flowers in our Parks
15 Flowering Water Plants
22 Flowers and Insects

A. B. Gallup

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

From Subway: St. John's Place cars to Brooklyn Avenue.

From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.

From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

VOLUME VIII

OCTOBER 1920 TO MAY 1921

An illustrated periodical devoted to the activities of the Children's Museum in presenting to children various subjects in Natural History, Geography, and United States History

BROOKLYN, N.Y.

1920-1921

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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

OF

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Brooklyn Avenue between Prospect Place and Park Place

FREE

Week days..... **9:00 A. M. to 5:30 P. M.**

Sundays..... **2:00 P. M. to 5:30 P. M.**

The Children's Museum was established in December, 1899. It was the first institution of its kind and is today the largest and best equipped Children's Museum in the world.

It interests and instructs children by means of its exhibits of natural history specimens; geographical and historical models; its library containing 7,500 carefully selected and graded books; its illustrated lectures; and personal attention to visitors.

The Museum Publications comprise the Annual Report, The Children's Museum News, Circulars of Information, Classified lists of Specimens to Lend to Schools, lists of Nature Books, and a Catalogue of the Historical Collection.

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VOLUME VIII

OCTOBER 1920 TO MAY 1921

ILLUSTRATIONS

Americanization

Pilgrim Children Models costumed for the Tercentenary of the Landing of the Pilgrims at Plymouth, Massachusetts, December 20, 1620 12

Busy Bee Room

An Afternoon in late Winter 17

Living Twigs of our Common Trees 19

Children's Museum League

Recruiting Tent, Bedford Park 9

The Big Thermometer showed the Daily Increase in Membership. On the last day of the Campaign The League had 8,000 Members 11

Field Trips

Fresh Leaves Gathered in Parks are Carefully Preserved in Private Collections 22

Spreading Insects 3

Spring opens with a Burst of Joy 20-21

Starting with Luncheons 2

The Children Prepared Boxes for Storing and Carrying Insects 1

Insect Room

Violet-tip, *Grapta interrogationis* 14

VOLUME VIII

OCTOBER 1920 TO MAY 1921

INDEX

Adams 23

Alps 6, 19

America 6, 12

America's Making 23

Americanization 12

Field Secretary 13

Fund 6

Attendance 2, 6, 13, 23

Bedford Park 11, 19

Digitized by Google

Bergen Beach, L. I. 2
Bible Teacher's Training School 5
Bird
Book 7, 11
Stories 7
Birds 10
Bluebird 13
Boogoe, Dr. Kai H. 5
"Book of Bravery" 15
Books and Magazines 23
"(More) Books in the Home" 15
Boston 7
Boy Scouts 10, 15
Brittain, Mrs. 23
Busy Bee Room 18
Butterflies 14
Canada 5
Candle Snuffers 13
Children's Museum 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 10, 12, 13, 14, 18, 23
Children's Museum, Boston, Mass. 6, 7
Barnard Branch 7
Barnard Memorial 6
Children's Museum League 10, 18
Membership 10, 18
China 5
Christmas 15
Coghill, Mrs. W. L. 6
Copenhagen, Denmark 5
Cotton, Miss Grace 13
Crawford, Miss Rebekah 6
Crystals 3
Cyprus, Island of 5
Denmark 5
Docent 6, 10, 18
Educators, Japanese 7
Egypt 5, 11
Exhibitions 23
Europe 6
Field Trip 4
Flatbush Water Works, L. I. 2
Flower Basket 23
Flowers 4, 19

Digitized by Google

Flowers, Classification of 18
Forest Park, L. I. 2
"Forest Protection and Conservation in Maine" 15
(Benjamin) Franklin," "Scenes from the Life of 15
Franklin Union Building 15
Gager, Dr. C. Stuart 15
Gallup, A. B. 8, 16, 24
Games, Mental 4
Girl Scouts 10, 15
    Captains 7
    Lieutenants 7
Grapta interrogationis 14
Hall, Miss Ella M. 11
Harvard 4
History
    Natural 5, 13
    Room 4, 12
Holland 5
Hollis Woods, L. I. 2
Holman, Louis A. 15
Hop Merchant 14
Hornet's Nest 13
House, Dr. Homer D. 15
Howe, Mrs. Walter H. 6
India 5, 11
Insects 4
Instructor 3, 4
    Nature 2
    Volunteer 5
Irvington-on-the-Hudson 2
Kindergarten Children 7
Korea 5
Kumamoto 7
Lanier, Henry W. 15
Lantern Slides 19
Leaves 4, 19
Lectures 8, 16, 24
Lee, M. D. 8, 16, 24
Library 4, 7, 13, 15, 23
    Attendance 15, 23
    Australia (Midland Junction) 7
    Boys' Week 23

Digitized by Google

Books
Bird 7
Tree 7
Zoology 7
Children's Art Centre 7
Children's Book Week 15
Columbia University 23
Notes 7, 15, 23
Pratt Institute School of Library Science 23
School, Vacation 7
Lincoln 12, 15
Lincoln's Birthday 15
Loan Collections 13
London 5
Long Island, Trees of 19
Long Island Woods 3
Luncheon 3, 10
Meleney, Miss Grace Coit 6
Mills, Charles E. 15
Minerals 4
Monroe 23
Motion Pictures 8, 16, 24
Museum Boy 14
Museum Training 19
Nature 2, 3, 7, 15, 18
Nature Study 18, 19, 23
Neely, Mrs. Floyd S. 6
New York State, Wild Flowers of 18
New York State Museum 18
Norway 5
Ornithology 5
Packer Institute 6
Paintings, Mural 15
Palisades 2
Parks, National 15
Pilgrims 15
Poems 23
Posters 15
Princeton 4
Queens, L. I. 2
"Reforming the neighborhood" 6
Revolutionary War 12

Digitized by Google

Roosevelt 12, 23
Rosenberg Library 5
Rosedale 2
Russell, Walter B. 15
San Diego Society of Natural History 5
Schools
Bible 7
High School for Girls at Hiroshima 7
Newport News High School 7
Normal School, Toronto 7
Public (Elementary)
55 6
34 23
Vacation 7
Slides
See Lantern Slides
Smith, Jessie Willcox 15
Smith College 6
South America 15
Southern States 23
Stereoscope 11
Stories of Bravery 15
"Stories to Tell to Children" 7
Story Hour 15
Students 18
High School 15
Nature 7
Stutsman, Prof. Frank V. 13
Taylor, Mrs. J. Richard 6
Tests 4
Nature 10
Thompson, Miss Alice W. 6, 10
Toronto, Can. 7
Tree Book 7
Tree Study 19
Trees." "Our Native 7
Trees, Study of 18
United States 15
Violet-tip *Grapta interrogationis* 14
Visitors 5, 13
Warming Pan 13
Washington 12, 15

Digitized by Google

Washington, D. C.
Library of Congress 7
U. S. National Museum 7
Washington's Birthday 15
Webster 23
"(The) Wild Flowers of New York" 15
Wireless Telegraphy 10
Wood, Dr. John A. 5
Woodcraft 3, 7
Woodcraft Manual 7
Worth, Miss Mildreth 10
Woman's Auxiliary 2, 6, 12
Field Work 2

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Children's Museum News

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VOL. VIII. BROOKLYN, N. Y., OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1920 Nos. 1 & 2

THE CHILDREN PREPARED THEIR OWN BOXES FOR STORING AND CARRYING INSECTS

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DAYS A-FIELD AND WHAT THEY MEAN

A visitor to our Museum last summer would have felt that we were having an exceptional season. A great deal was taking place. Expressing it in numbers, there were 15,621 children visitors in July alone, nearly 5,000 more than in the corresponding month of 1919. The reason for this increased activity was apparent. For the first time in its history, the Museum was carrying on a systematic out-of-door program under the supervision of an expert Nature instructor.

Late in the winter and early spring, the Woman's Auxiliary had raised money to provide an instructor and to pay the carfares of children who were eager to study Nature but unable to pay for their own transportation to the open country.

STARTING WITH LUNCHEONS NOT FORGOTTEN. LUNCHEON WAS USUALLY ENJOYED UNDER THE TREES.

Many of us had seen how much the children, who studied objects in the Museum, needed experience in the real country. Press notices inviting boys and girls interested in the summer program to register at the Museum brought a goodly number of applicants for the first outing. A schedule of four trips each week, two for boys and two for girls, was promptly arranged and preparations for these outings were begun in the Museum.

The children prepared their own boxes for storing and carrying insects. Into the vigorous exercise of scraping the colored papers from the cigar boxes, which had been soaked in water, of varnishing them inside and outside and then lining them with cork, went many moments of happy anticipation. Covers and bottoms of cigar boxes were used to make plant presses. Butterfly nets were also refurbished, and cyanide bottles were made ready. The would-be collectors appreciated the advantage of making their outfits neat and uniform in appearance, and of keeping them in good condition.

The attractions of each happy hunting ground were duly set forth by the instructor prior to the day of the trip—that the children might be on the alert for all of its features of interest. Forest Park, Hollis Woods, Bergen Beach, Flatbush Water Works, Queens, Rosedale, Long Island, the Palisades, and Irvington-on-the-Hudson were favorite places.

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More important than any other idea gained by these days in the country was Nature's direct message of satisfaction, joy, and absorbing fascination.

That this message was understood in the very beginning, we have no doubt. On the first trip, sixteen boys and girls, strangers to each other, spent a day in the Long Island Woods. "Not a word of friction, not a jar," said the instructor, "marred a perfect day for both instructor and instructed." Placed in the field with something definite to do such as insect collecting or plant study the children expand freely. They

MUCH TIME THEREFORE WAS GIVEN TO SPREADING INSECTS

develop initiative, observation, and originality as they do not in the Museum or even in the city parks. In the open country the youngsters presented an attractive sight flashing their white nets, chasing butterflies, collecting wild flowers for the plant presses, and making vigorous use of the geological hammers in search of crystals.

Luncheon was usually enjoyed under the trees. Following that, came a lesson in woodcraft including a practical exposition of the trees

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and plants all about. Mental games were often employed to test what had been acquired, and physical games gave free play for active muscles. It was a joy to watch the tree-climbing and ball-playing carried on with absolute consideration for the rights of others. "Is this good to eat?" asked one or two children bringing to the instructor something they had never seen before—a luscious, wild strawberry.

As the season progressed and the children became more skilled in collecting, it seemed best to give more time in the Museum to studying and preserving the material which the children had brought in from the fields.

Much attention was therefore given to spreading insects, pressing flowers and leaves, arranging minerals in homemade trays, and identifying and labeling a great variety of Nature specimens. Toward the end of the season, the program settled down to a series of recurring events on successive days as follows: first, a day with the instructor in the Museum preparing for a field trip; second, a day in the field observing and collecting; third, a day in the Museum caring for specimens and searching for information about them in the Library.

By the end of the summer these boys and girls had developed an enthusiasm for Nature observation that seemed to have elements of permanence.

Their autumn activities have attracted to the Museum more than one hundred new children who have asked the privilege of doing the same kind of Nature work that the children, inspired by the summer program, are now doing. Sixty of these are busy on progressive tasks for which they pass tests. The others are on a waiting list because the staff of the Museum is too small to give the tests as rapidly as the young people qualify for them.

As evidence of the way impressions gained through the Children's Museum deepen into that which points toward a fixed purpose, we submit a memorandum penned by one of our volunteer instructors.

"My dear Miss Gallup:

"In the History Room today four of the boys and I were having an informal talk. To my astonishment, I found each had a definite plan for a college education which had been inspired by the Children's Museum. The talk started by L—— saying, 'I have taken every history test here at the Museum. I like history. I'm going to Harvard because the best professor in history teaches there.'

" 'Well, I'm going to Princeton,' began G—— the instant he had a chance to talk. 'I like to study birds and I want to mount them.' Just why he had chosen Princeton I do not know, but having been to

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the home of the Professor of Ornithology and having seen his private avairy, I was glad to tell him about both.

"The next boy proved to be keen about minerals and, it seemed, had set his heart on going to Cornell. Natural History in its various branches, as he is learning it at the Museum, is stimulating this boy to serious work along that line of study. The fourth boy of this group was planning to go to Columbia.

"Think of the vision the Children's Museum has given to each of these boys! They come from homes where parents and boys will have to sacrifice to make possible a university training; and yet these aspirations are being fostered by the inspiration of the Children's Museum.

"This is so fine a reward for all you are trying to do for the children, I feel I must tell you. It is incidents like this that give vision to all who share in the work.

Yours with deep interest"

A Volunteer

A WIDENING INFLUENCE

An increasing number of letters of inquiry about our work have been received from various sources. The Rosenberg Library of Texas writes, "We are glad to have your bulletin come to us regularly." From the San Diego Society of Natural History comes the request for, "As much literature and information as you can spare and spare time for as well as references to literature which we may be able to procure." The editor of one of the chief magazines in London has asked for photographs.

We were glad to welcome for one afternoon a class in Sociology with their instructor Dr. John A. Wood, from the Bible Teacher's Training School, New York City. In this class were forty students representing among other countries Canada, India, China, Korea, Holland, Egypt, Denmark, Island of Cyprus, and Norway. These young people are in training for service in the United States and in foreign countries. In addressing the class, Dr. Wood said he had brought them to the Children's Museum to give them an object lesson in demonstration of the fact that when an educational enterprise has operated successfully in a community for a reasonable length of time, the people of that community will show their interest in it by supporting it. Dr. Wood advised his students to take note of the many practical suggestions which they might get from the Museum in preparation for similar work in the various countries to which they might be sent.

Dr. Kai H. Boogoe a child specialist of Copenhagen, Denmark, honored us with a visit while on an educational tour of the United States last June.

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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM WORK IN BOSTON

The sixth annual report of the Children's Museum of Boston makes the following announcement: "Through the generosity of three friends, . . . our small beginning of a fund has been increased until it now totals over twenty seven thousand dollars. These public spirited citizens have thus laid the financial foundation upon which will be built in future years the extended work of the Museum. Such munificent gifts are worthy of lasting and grateful remembrance among all lovers of childhood."

A branch of the Children's Museum of Boston equipped and officered has been opened on Warrenton Street, Boston. This was made possible through the generous co-operation of the Barnard Memorial which has given the use of its building and a contribution sufficient to maintain the work of the branch.

SUMMER WORK FOR THE MUSEUM

The Museum was not forgotten during the summer months. Mrs. Floyd S. Neely, Mrs. Walter H. Howe, Mrs. W. L. Coghill, and Mrs. J. Richard Taylor of the Woman's Auxiliary gave entertainments in the form of card parties, dances, and luncheons at their respective summer homes. Through their combined efforts a substantial sum was added to the Americanization Fund.

An unknown friend has presented to the Museum through Miss Rebekah Crawford, formerly of Brooklyn, a large collection of excellent mounted photographs. These represent places of historic and scenic interest in America and Europe. Chief among the European scenes is a panoramic view of the Alps ten feet in length. Teachers wishing to use any of these pictures for class instruction may arrange to borrow them.

Miss Alice W. Thompson of Packer Institute and Smith College, 1920 has accepted the position of Docent made vacant by the resignation of Miss Grace Coit Meleney.

The attendance for July 1920 was 15,621 which is 4,815 more than for the same month in 1919.

A telephone message came from a teacher at Public School No. 55 that another one of our members was "Reforming the whole neighborhood by getting the boys interested in the Museum." She asked for a Speaker to visit the school assembly and tell all of the children about the Museum.

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LIBRARY NOTES

The summer of 1920 was probably the busiest vacation season in the history of the Library. The interests of the boys and girls were unusually varied, giving rise to many pleasing results. A goodly number of children were becoming enthusiastic Nature students with the aid of Museum instruction and trips to the country and seashore, and naturally pursued their investigations in the Library. For instance, children made diligent search for the names of caterpillars, moths, and butterflies, and found information about bugs, beetles, and the egg-sacs of spiders. They learned the names of birds and wild flowers, and several became quite expert in identifying trees by means of the Leaf Guide in "Our Native Trees."

A group of boys, who had enjoyed the "Mineral Games" in the Museum, were ready to take up the serious study of Geology. Woodcraft became very popular, and the "Woodcraft Manual" was in constant use. History stories were desired by many readers, and there were frequent requests for books for the identification of postage stamps and coins, for making all kinds of handiwork, and for experiments in chemistry and physics.

Ten teachers connected with Bible Schools and Vacation Schools in Brooklyn brought their classes to the Library during the summer. In several cases the teachers came again to obtain titles of books which would be helpful in their work. One teacher borrowed our Bird Stories to read to the Kindergarten children in a vacation school, and another entertained the children in her neighborhood with 'Stories to Tell to Children." Girl Scout Captains and Lieutenants, together with their troops, studied our Tree Books and Bird Books.

Among the notable visitors to the Library during recent months were two Japanese educators, namely: the Principal of a High School for Girls at Hiroshima, and a Professor of Chemical Engineering located at Kumamoto. A Critic teacher in the Normal School at Toronto, Canada, was especially delighted with our books containing "Projects in Science," and the Head of the Biology Department of a High School at Newport News spent several hours browsing among our Zoology books. Another guest was a Clergyman from Midland Junction, Australia.

During her vacation, the Librarian visited the progressive Children's Museum of Boston, and its new Barnard Branch located in a Syrian section of the city, and also the attractive Children's Art Centre, in Boston. Another member of the Staff paid a visit to the Library of Congress, and the United States National Museum in Washington.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Industries of the United States** Tuesdays, 4.00 P.M.

November 2 Special Lecture—*See below*
9 Making Shoes—Motion Picture
16 Planting Cotton—Motion Picture
23 Picking Apples—Motion Picture
30 Canning Salmon—Motion Picture **M. D. Lee**

Grades 5A or 5B: **Animals of Africa** Wednesdays, 4.00 P. M.

November 3 Elephants
10 Rhinoceros and Hippopotamus
17 Lions and Tigers
24 Apes and Monkeys **M. D. Lee**

Grades 8A or 8B: **Electricity** Thursdays, 4.00 P. M.

November 4 The Leyden Jar and Other Condensers
11 Electrical Machines
18 Atmospheric Electricity **M. D. Lee**

Grades 6A or 6B: **Our Northern Neighbors** Fridays, 4.00 P. M.

November 5 Quebec and the Saguenay River
12 Nova Scotia
19 The Canadian Rockies
26 Special Lecture—*See below* **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Motion Pictures** Saturdays, 10.30 A. M.

November 6 The Lumber Industry
13 Grazing on the National Forests
20 Farmers Making Bread
27 Flowers **M. D. Lee**

Primary Grades: **Nature in Autumn (Cont'd)** Saturdays, 2.30 P. M.

November 6 The Ripening and Scattering of Fruits and Seeds
13 Small Creatures of the Gardens and Hedges
20 Autumn in Spider Land
27 Preparations for Winter **A. B. Gallup**

For All Grades: **Historic Motion Pictures** 10.30 A. M. & 2.30 P. M.

November 2 "To-day Honors Yesterday"
"Visits to Shrines of Liberty" **M. D. Lee**
26 The Pilgrim Fathers **A. B. Gallup**

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

Via Subway: Broadway 7th Avenue Subway to Kingston Avenue Station.
From Brooklyn Bridge: Fulton Street or Bergen Street Surface cars or Fulton Street Elevated cars to Tompkins Avenue Station.
From Williamsburg Bridge: Nostrand Avenue and Tompkins Avenue cars to Prospect Place.

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

Free to the public. Open week-days 10.00 A.M. to 5.00 P.M. Sundays 2.00 to 5.00 P.M.

VOL. VIII. BROOKLYN, N. Y., DECEMBER 1920 — MARCH 1921 Nos. 3 — 6

RECRUITING TENT, BEDFORD PARK

This tent was headquarters for the Children's Museum League during an active campaign for members

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CHILDREN'S MUSEUM LEAGUE

Meetings **Mondays, 4:00 P. M.**

Are you a boy or girl scout?

Are you a woodcrafter?

Are you a collector of insects or stones?

Are you interested in wireless telegraphy?

Would you like to know the birds, animals, flowers, and trees as well as you know your best friends?

If so you ought to belong to the Children's Museum League.

Are You a Member?

Here are a few things the League can do for you:

Help you to collect, name, and press flowers and leaves.

Teach you to collect and preserve insects.

Assist you in making a mineral collection.

Show you how to study and identify birds, and lend you mounted birds to take home.

Help you to plan a wireless station and teach you to send messages.

Give you assistance in preparing for Nature tests.

Give examinations and pass you for honors.

When you come to the Museum ask for Miss Alice W. Thompson, the Museum Docent, and she will tell you how to get started.

How to Join

To join the League, give your name and address and ten cents to Miss Thompson. In return for this you will receive a League button and a member's slip and become a member of the Museum for life. You can then begin to work for Museum honors and prizes. When you are fully prepared to pass an examination, ask Miss Mildreth Worth to give you an appointment for a Friday afternoon or a Saturday morning. If you know your subject Miss Worth will pass you. If you do not know it, she will tell you what to study in further preparation.

One of the pleasures of being a League member is that of interesting your friends in the Museum. Sometimes our members do a great deal of this kind of work. Those who have become good speakers, by giving talks at the League Meetings, make short addresses about the Museum in class rooms or in school assemblies. A better way is to invite your friends to bring box luncheons and spend a whole day at the Children's Museum under your guidance. That will give them plenty of time to see all the exhibits,

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read the books in the Library, enjoy a lecture, and play some of the Museum games. One member brought his friends on a bicycle one at a time from a distance of two miles.

Many of the members worked very hard for three weeks last summer to interest other boys and girls in joining the League. Every day they kept open a recruiting tent in Bedford Park. The rising mercury in the big thermometer showed the increase in membership each day until the League had 8,000 members.

THE BIG THERMOMETER SHOWED THE DAILY INCREASE IN MEMBERSHIP. ON THE LAST DAY OF THE CAMPAIGN THE LEAGUE HAD 8,000 MEMBERS

The children who secured the most members received honors for their good work. A prize of a bird book illustrated with colored pictures was given to those who obtained fifteen members.

TRAVELS WITH THE STEREOSCOPE

League members are invited to make use of the beautiful stereoscopic views of objects and places of interest in India, China, and Egypt. These views are the gift of Miss Ella M. Hall of Brooklyn.

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AMERICANIZATION

PILGRIM CHILDREN MODELS COSTUMED FOR THE TERCENTENARY OF THE LANDING OF THE PILGRIMS AT PLYMOUTH, MASSACHUSETTS, DECEMBER 20, 1620 IN THE HISTORY ROOM

Among the thousands of visitors who have enjoyed the Museum this winter have been many to whom America is becoming a great deal more than a name.

In a single day children of fifteen or twenty different nationalities acquire through our various activities the useful knowledge that helps them in their every day lives as growing Americans.

The Woman's Auxiliary through its Americanization Committee is constantly bringing to the attention of new groups of children and mothers the advantages of being closely identified with some branch of Children's Museum work.

During recent months between eight and nine hundred visits have been made by children in Americanization classes with their teachers. Over and over again these children have played the history game in the History Room, learning each time a new group of inspiring facts and storing in their sensitive minds a whole gallery of historic scenes and pictures. They have also heard lectures about Washington, Lincoln, and Roosevelt, and other great Americans. Through the moving pictures, typical industries, such as the cotton industry, mining, and forestry, have been visualized and glorious tours of our great national parks have been enjoyed.

Standing before the History model, representing a scene in the Revolutionary War, and searching for the answer to a question about Washington one of the children said, "Isn't George Washington dead?" There seemed

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to be some uncertainty in his mind, but as he pivoted on his heel to go away, he voiced his tribute to the model, "Well anyway he's alive in the picture!"

The old fashioned warming pan, is according to the experience of the observer, either a musical instrument or a cooking utensil. The candle snuffers also sometimes require the special explanation that was given the little girl who asked, "Is that the snuff they put up their noses?" To the powder horn have been attributed various uses, from that of "Calling the soldiers together" to "Blowing things up."

These intimate conversations about objects which have stimulated interest, have given rise to many discussions at home and to innumerable trips to the Library of the Museum to establish disputed points.

Foreign mothers after enjoying the hospitality of the Museum for an afternoon among the objects which have delighted their children, go home with new ambitions to broaden their own horizons in the effort to be better comrades for their growing families. One mother said, "I shall bring my boy here once a week until he has seen everything." The teachers say, "An afternoon at this Museum is worth a week in school." I always bring each class I have here once a term at least, it changes them so."

With children, parents, and teachers so heartily agreed as to the value of the Museum, it is not surprising that Miss Grace Cotton, the Americanization Field Secretary, wishes to be sure there will be room in the Museum to receive them before she invites any classes. "I find," says Miss Cotton, "the principals are eager to send the children and groups of mothers are waiting to be invited."

A GOOD WORD FOR THE LOAN COLLECTIONS

"May I borrow a bluebird to take home and keep for a week?" asked a dark eyed visitor. "My mother says she is so happy with a bird in the room. She says it dresses up the whole house and makes it look young."

ATTENDANCE

For the three winter months the attendance was 40,814—which is 12,536 more than for the same period in 1920.

A new visitor when asked how he heard about the Children's Museum replied, "I met a boy from here at the Big Museum and the way he rattled things off made me green with envy, so I came here for myself."

ASLEEP IN A HORNET'S NEST

During the Christmas vacation, Prof. Frank V. Stutsmann, a friend of the Museum, had the good fortune to stumble on a curious bit of natural history.

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Going by his camp in the woods one day, he noticed that a hornet's nest hanging from a tree in front of the camp was much torn by the wind. It seemed so ragged and tattered and so odd looking in its tatters that he was led to examine it more carefully and found it covered and stuffed with hibernating butterflies of the species *Grapta interrogationis*, Hop Merchant. The wind becoming more severe, just then, dislodged about twenty five insects which he gathered from the floor of the piazza and the adjacent grounds. He then counted eleven more within the nest.

VIOLET TIP, *Grapta interrogationis*
HAS A QUEER WINTER BEDROOM

The Violet tip, belongs to the family of Hop Merchants and is familiar to many of our children who have passed the test for knowing 25 butterflies. About four broods appear in a season the last being the hibernating form. A good piece of scouting for a Museum boy is to find the other hiding places of this beautiful creature.

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LIBRARY NOTES

The work of the Library for the past few months seems to indicate a decided gain in two directions: first, a large increase in attendance; and second, more extended use of our books and magazines by older boys and girls. We have noted with pleasure a monthly gain ranging from 953 to 2,477 over the corresponding period of the previous year, making a total increase of 9,122 readers in six months.

The use of the Library by Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts, singly and in troops, to study birds, trees, flowers, and stars has been very gratifying. Many High School students have found information about the different departments of the city government, water supply systems, and oil production in the United States. Several times, a class of larger girls has spent a morning hour in the Library taking notes about South America and our National Parks. They also have copied poems about the Pilgrims, Christmas, Washington, and Lincoln for school exercises. An ungraded class of big boys looked over handicraft books to find designs for making bird houses, and book shelves.

During 'Children's Book Week," November 15-20, the Library was decorated with Jessie Willcox Smith's beautiful posters, and with cheery fliers bearing the legend "More books in the Home." One afternoon, Mr. Henry W. Lanier, author of three volumes called the "Book of Bravery," gave his services for a Story Hour. Mr. Lanier prefaced his stories with a graphic account of a serious accident to his young son, whose courage suggested to the author the writing of a series of Stories of Bravery. Naturally, a keen interest was aroused in his audience of one hundred and fifty children, causing the "Book of Bravery" to be in demand ever since.

On Lincoln's Birthday, with an attendance of 513 during the day, a special effort was made to have the children read stories about Lincoln. Consequently 260 children, or half the number of visitors, gained a somewhat more intimate acquaintance with this great President. Likewise, on Washington's Birthday about 225 children read stories of Washington.

Several valuable books have been donated to the Library. The most notable are two volumes entitled "The Wild Flowers of New York," by Dr. Homer D. House, the State Botanist. This work is exquisitely illustrated 'by the quadricolor process, and the living and growing plants have been reproduced in their colors as near to those of Nature as now seems possible."

An attractive book treating of "Forest Protection and Conservation in Maine" was presented to us by Dr. C. Stuart Gager. Another interesting book with the suggestive title "Scenes from the Life of Benjamin Franklin" by Louis A. Holman, contains reproductions of mural paintings by Charles E. Mills in the lobby of the Franklin Union Building, Boston. This volume was donated by Mr. Walter B. Russell, the Director of the School.

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LECTURES

Grades 7A or 7B: **Astronomy** Tuesdays, 4.00 P.M.

March 1 The Sun
8 The Earth
15 The Moon
22 The Planets
29 The Stars

M. D. Lee

Grades 5A or 5B: **American History** Wednesdays, 4.00 P. M.

March 2 The Mexican War
9 The Civil War, Part I
16 The Civil War, Part II
23 The Spanish-American War
30 The Life of Colonel Roosevelt

M. D. Lee

Grades 8A or 8B: **Physics** Thursdays, 4.00 P. M.

March 3 General Principles of Sound
10 Applications of Sound
17 What Light Is
24 Mirrors
31 Optical Instruments

M. D. Lee

Grades 6A or 6B: **Geography of the United States** Fridays, 4.00 P. M.

March 4 The Connecticut Valley
11 The New England Coast
18 The Mississippi Valley
25 California and the Yosemite Valley

M. D. Lee

Primary Grades: **Motion Pictures** Saturdays, 10.30 A. M.

March 5 Penguins and Other Queer Birds
12 Marine Life
19 Grazing on the National Parks
26 Fighting Forest Fires

M. D. Lee

Primary Grades: **Nature's Hiding Places: Their Treasures** Saturdays, 2.30 P. M.

March 5 An Old Dead Tree
12 Black Mud in Swampy Places
19 Rocky Glens
26 Pond Ooze and Slime

A. B. Gallup

HOW TO REACH THE CHILDREN'S MUSEUM

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Children's Museum News

THE BROOKLYN INSTITUTE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Children's Museum, Bedford Park

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VOL. VIII. BROOKLYN, N.Y., APRIL — MAY 1921 NOS. 7—8

AN AFTERNOON IN LATE WINTER

Learning the parts of a flower from a dissectible model

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THE MUSEUM A BACKGROUND FOR NATURE STUDY

HOW IT HELPS IN THE STUDY OF TREES

On the title page of this number is a picture of one of our students on an afternoon in late winter. Like other visitors who can be seen in different parts of the Museum at that time of the year, she is studying one of the fifty enlarged, dissectible, papier mache models of flowers.

Very often these naturally colored models, true to Nature in every detail, prove a strong attraction on cold, gray, rainy days when out-of-doors seems cheerless and forbidding. With the help of a text book of botany and an occasional word from the docent, the student learns easily the parts of a flower, the uses of the parts, and the characters of structure on which to base the classifications of flowers.

Following work with the models, our visitors enjoy comparing the colored illustrations on charts which depict not only the flowers represented by the models, but the plants upon which they grow. At the League meetings and at various lectures, colored lantern slides of many of these plants growing in their native situations can be seen.

Thus it proves that these students having dissected and put together the models, compared the charts and viewed the lantern slides, awaken to a new interest in the Library books on botany, many of which are illustrated with colored portraits of flowers, plants, and trees. Chief among these books is a work in two volumes, Memoir 15 of the New York State Museum, Wild Flowers of New York State, in which the illustrations seem to be living, growing plants.

With the coming of the early spring, the Busy Bee Room abounds in clear glass vases filled with fresh water and containing living twigs of our common trees. Their buds unfold rapidly in the warm, sunny, east windows inviting the close inspection of those visitors whose eyes are now opened because of the winter months of intelligent study and observation. Frequently the docent is asked to furnish pencil and paper that the observer may draw the buds in opposite or alternate position, the falling bud scales, or the tiny flowers of the unfolding flower buds.

To these observers spring opens with a burst of joy. Every statement which the Museum has taught must now be verified in the field. Handling the models and studying the pictures have wrought an impression comparable

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to that of one whose study of models of glaciers and panoramic views of Alps makes him eager to climb the mountains.

Out-of-door work must surely begin in the month of May, perhaps by learning the forty different species of trees in Bedford Park, which itself is a veritable beginner's laboratory. Following this, there may trips to other parks, to the suburbs and even to country places where fi leaves may be found for making collections.

Surely this year, as in former years, the boys and girls equipped w

LIVING TWIGS OF OUR COMMON TREES

Museum training in Tree Study will find the summer happier whether be at home or in a summer camp where every guest strives to win honor in Nature Study.

In the autumn every one will be invited to see the new lantern slide of the trees of Long Island. At least six slides of each tree will be use to show its life history. The tree in summer, in winter, its flowers, leave and fruit, and a close up view of the bark will all be used. We have nov sixty-four of these slides. but this is only the beginning of a collection, whic when it is completed, will be one of the best we know.

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Courtesy of the Daily News

TO THESE OBSERVERS SPRING OPENS WITH A BURST OF JOY
EVERY STATEMENT LEARNED IN THE MUSEUM MUST NOW BE VERIFIED IN THE FIELD

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Courtesy of the Daily News

FRESH LEAVES GATHERED IN PARKS ARE CAREFULLY PRESERVED
IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

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